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LD2311133088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Israeli Taken Captive; Raid Near Sidon—A Lebanese resistance group captured an Israeli intelligence officer south of Jazzin 22 November, Voice of National Resistance radio announced.

The radio cited reports that Israeli forces and their "agents" are mounting a large-scale search campaign for the captive.

Israeli warplanes attacked "terrorist" targets near Sidon the same day, hitting a command post and base in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah area, according to Jerusalem radio.

Palestinian sources cited by AFP stated that at least three people were killed and six wounded in the attack, which destroyed a building used by Force 17 and a position belonging to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah security unit.

Hizballah-Amal Clashes—The Voice of National Resistance reported that 2 people were killed and 10 wounded during an outbreak of fighting between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen in southern Beirut.

The situation returned to "normal" after the gunmen abided by a cease-fire and withdrew from the streets.

Shi'ite theologian Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din condemned the fighting in a cease-fire appeal carried by Beirut radio.

However, clashes resumed the morning of 23 November, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Israel

Labor Party leaders cited by Jerusalem radio confirmed that the Alignment halted the coalition talks because its demands were not met, but indicated their willingness to resume negotiations if the Likud softens its positions.

The main points of contention between Labor and Likud concern the appointment of portfolios and the issue of parity within the inner cabinet.

Likud circles consider that a broadly-based government is still not out of the question, the radio noted.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected a demand by U.S. Jewish leaders to refrain from changing the "Who Is a Jew" law, IDF radio reported, but he agreed to form a special team to discuss the matter.

The motion to amend the law has already been submitted to the Knesset, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

In the territories, at least 16 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers 22 November, according to THE JERUSALEM POST.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said he has been informed by Egyptian leaders that the U.S. Administration has agreed to grant him a visa so he can address the UN General Assembly (UNGA), Cairo radio reported.

'Arafat added he has a "mission" to complete in New York.

A PLO official cited by MENA disclosed that 'Arafat's UNGA speech will include a demand that the occupied territories be placed under UN custodianship for a transitional period during which the Palestinians will participate in a referendum on self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

In another development, Algiers Voice of Palestine broadcast "Call No 29" by the "Unified National Command of the Uprising," which lauded the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state and outlined a program of further action until 6 December.

The latest call included an appeal to "fundamentalists" to put general national interest above their own "factional policies" and to stop "negative manifestations."

Iraq

In a reply letter to Saddam Husayn, broadcast by Baghdad radio, the justice minister lauded the president's "deep sense of justice" but expressed concern it might lead him to commit an "outrage" against his son.

The radio also broadcast a decree by the minister announcing the formation of a three-man commission to investigate the case against Saddam Husayn's son.

Iran

Internal Situation—Iranian sources in Paris cited by AFP asserted that the Iranian authorities recently executed 18 people, most of whom were supporters of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

About 200 people were reportedly arrested in the clampdown against Montazeri's supporters.

AFP said the executions were seen as a further consolidation of the power of Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, noting that the move against Montazeri's supporters came after they leaked a letter from Montazeri to Iranian leaders criticizing the current situation in the country.

Peace Talks—If the next round of talks with Iraq gets into the same "rut," it will be necessary to redefine the role of the UN Security Council and secretary general to make Iraq understand that Resolution 598 must be implemented, a Foreign Ministry spokesman stated in an interview cited by IRNA.

FRG Visitor—FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will visit Iran next week for talks that "may turn the searchlight on the solution to the hostage issue in Lebanon," the TEHRAN TIMES stated in an editorial reported by IRNA.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio broadcast a message from President Najibullah to Jordan's King Husayn asking the latter to contact the Saudi leadership to obtain its consent to host an Afghan peace meeting in Mecca.

The message also urged the king to encourage the Afghan opposition to participate in such talks.

On the military situation inside Afghanistan, an Afghan press agency in Islamabad disclosed that over 1,000 Soviet troops were airlifted to Qandahar 21 November to reinforce the garrison in the city, according to XINHUA.

Pakistan

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan held separate meetings with Pakistan People's Party leader Benazir Bhutto and Islamic Democratic Alliance leader Nawaz Sharif, Islamabad radio reported, noting that the discussions focused on the formation of a new government.

Sharif disclosed afterward that he had asked the president "not to become party to Ms Bhutto's attempts to create a contrived majority," according to AFP.

Bhutto told journalists the president does not intend to name a new prime minister until after the National Assembly elects a speaker on 7 December, AFP added.

She criticized this "unconstitutional" delay which is giving "certain elements" time to maneuver.

Sudan

Several people were killed and many injured in riots in Khartoum 22 November, TANJUG reported.

Citing a Sudanese radio report, the agency said the disorders were triggered by Islamic fundamentalists protesting the recent agreement between the Democratic Unionist Party and the SPLA.

Police intervened after the fundamentalists attacked southern immigrants in the suburbs of the capital.

In another development, Omdurman National Unity radio announced that the Armed Forces have captured a group of "outlaws" responsible for the 17 November missile attack on the defense minister's plane in Waw.

The captives reportedly disclosed that they were acting under orders from SPLA leader John Garang.

A Sudanese military spokesman cited by the radio dismissed the SPLA's "naive denial" of involvement in the attack.

A Khartoum press report revealed Garang has asked to meet Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in Kampala, according to SUNA.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Speaks at Cairo Seminar

NC2211132888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has commended the Egyptian decision to recognize the Palestinian state. He described it as a historic, courageous stand confronting everything that is being said in the Arab area about agreements.

In a speech during the final session of the International Seminar for the Protection of Holy Places and Cultural Heritage in Palestine, 'Arafat noted that Egypt's recognition of the Palestine state has its own dimensions, objectives, and essence and is completely different from other recognitions.

The Palestinian leader added there is consensus on the significance of the Egyptian recognition, which has its own dimensions and objectives and will also have a bearing on all levels. This recognition, 'Arafat added, is good for the Palestinian revolution and the Arab nation.

'Arafat went on to say: We are fighting in defense of the Islamic and Christian sanctities after God made us the guards and defenders of this good land.

He added that the importance of the Palestinian struggle lies in the fact that it is not only fighting in defense of the homeland, but also for the sake of regaining and defending these Christian and Islamic sanctities. This is the true meaning for which the various sects of the Palestinian people are fighting and sacrificing their lives.

In his speech, 'Arafat emphasized that the Palestinian people are also fighting in defense of true Judaism. He added: As Muslims and Christians we recognize this true religion, not the religion which has been distorted by Israeli militarism. We are defending the Islamic, Christian, and Jewish religious places.

'Arafat noted that Israel, with its Zionist face, represents the new colonialism and the bridgehead for the old colonialism in our Arab area. Israel does not represent the Jewish heritage.

Yasir 'Arafat went on to say: This stand on Zionism is not only ours. The United Nations has condemned Zionism as an ideology and practice—as a racist, fascist movement against all of humanity, including Judaism.

He added: I received a letter two days ago from the Jewish Naturai Karta sect in Palestine, to which 100,000 Jews belong, asking to have a minister in the Palestinian government when it is formed. We welcome them. This sect celebrated the declaration of the Palestinian state in its schools yesterday and said thanksgiving prayers there. He said: This shows that we represent the cultural pinnacle of the Palestinian people—Muslims, Christians, and Jews. This is the cultural significance represented by the Palestinian revolution. We are not a fascist state but a democratic one in which Muslims, Christians, and Jews coexist.

The PLO leader said: We accept all UN resolutions from the premise they are an indivisible single unit. We agree to what has been stipulated by international legitimacy at the same time as the U.S. and some European mentalities reject these resolutions as a single unit. Yet they accept some of them while rejecting the others.

He noted these countries agree to part of Resolution 181 for 1947 which is almost the sole birth certificate for the State of Israel while they reject simultaneously the other articles calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

'Arafat addressed the following question to U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush:

How can you accept part of Resolution 181 and reject the other part that concerns the Palestinian state even though we have repeatedly declared in all our stands that we accept all UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue, including Resolutions 242 and 338?

The PLO leader stressed that international legitimacy is the sole arbitrator on this issue.

The PLO leader recalled that the PNC has declared more than once that the Palestinian people accept a peaceful solution that takes into account all of the Palestinian people's national rights by holding an effective international conference for peace under UN auspices to discuss the Middle East problem and its essence, the Palestinian cause, and with the participation of the permanent Security Council members and all the concerned parties in the region, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Paletinian people.

'Arafat added: My hands are extended for a real peace that stems from strength, not from weakness. The world must understand that when the PNC approved peace, it did so from the position of strength.

He noted that he can summon the PNC again to tell it: I have not found any reaction in the United States to the Palestinian hand extended for peace. The PNC must then make the appropriate decisions in light of this disregard for the Palestinian peace.

'Arafat hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. He said it is entering its 12th month now, despite all the slanders it has been subjected to. He said the uprising is standing fast and is strong and that it will continue until the Palestinian people obtain their legitimate and national rights, foremost of which is their right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

'Arafat added the Palestinian revolution is fighting on more than one front and that this is its fate. He said that at a time when the revolution is facing Israel it is also facing the United States, which is a great power that defends Israel and extends every possible military, material, information, and political assistance to it.

Concluding his speech, 'Arafat stressed the uprising will continue, wave after wave. He said the real uprising began not on 8 December as some believe, but erupted as a reaction to the massacres in the Palestinian camps.

Khalaf Cited on Confederation, U.S. Stand

JN2311101688 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Text] Kuwait—PETRA—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has said that he objects to the establishment of a confederation with Jordan before the actual establishment of a Palestinian state.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH published yesterday, he added Jordan will not conclude a unilateral peace treaty with Israel under which it recovers its occupied territories in Wadi 'Arabah and that if His Majesty King Husayn had wanted to achieve a unilateral solution, he would have already achieved it.

He also said that following Camp David, there is no longer a way paved for unilateral solutions and that the solution should be collective and through an international conference.

Therefore, he added, the 17 May agreement signed by Lebanon and Israel was foiled and neither Israel nor the United States had managed to promote Camp David, stressing that the solution lies in the convening of an international conference.

Khalaf added that we reject the continued occupation of Syrian territories and that we talk about the Golan Heights just as we are talk about Palestine, as the Golan Heights were occupied because of Palestine.

He said we will never talk about an international conference without Syria and Lebanon and that we support the convening of an international conference and reject any unilateral solution.

Salah Khalaf also expressed confidence Syria would attend the conference, if convened, to discuss Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

He added: The world should understand the PNC's political statement, which stresses we are serious in pursuing peace. If the world responds positively to our seriousness, peace may prevail in the region, but if the world views the statement as it viewed all the PLO's previous initiatives, I believe there will be an extreme alternative and the extremists will lead the Palestinian arena.

Asked if he meant the Islamists, Khalaf said: I do not mean the Islamists, but all the extremists in general.

He described the declaration of the Palestinian state as a political decision, adding there will be no solution without a Palestinian state and that the state is the only solution we accept.

He also said he does not believe the U.S. position is totally identical to that of Israel because the recent U.S. official's statements drew a line between U.S. Middle East policy and Israeli policy.

He said Israel's position is extreme and intransigent and that there had been a somewhat slight development in the U.S. policy.

Therefore, he added, we must develop this limited positiveness through U.S. public opinion. He said if the United States feels its interests are threatened, it will impose its views on Israel and exercise all sorts of pressure on it.

PLO Hails EEC Statement as 'Step Forward'

NC2211131188 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tunis, Nov 22 (AFP)—The PLO on Tuesday hailed a Middle East statement by the European Economic Community (EEC) as "a step forward" but urged the community to take concrete steps to halt "Israeli repression" in the occupied territories.

Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the PLO was now looking to an EEc summit in early December for "a radical decision in favor of peace."

He was responding to a statement Monday by EEC foreign ministers that welcomed the "positive steps" emerging from last week's meeting in Algiers of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

The ministers in their Brussels statement steered clear of recognizing the independent state proclaimed by the PNC, focusing instead on the council's rejection of terrorism and its acceptance of two United Nations resolutions acknowledging Israel's right to exist.

"We consider the EEC declaration to be a step forward, which should now be coupled with practical measures to put an end to repression by Israel against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories," Mr. 'Abd al-Rahman said.

The PLO did not publicly criticize the 12 members of the community for failing to recognize independent Palestine.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, made no criticism of the EEC in a meeting Monday with community ambassadors here, according to a Western diplomat.

Mr. Qaddumi instead stressed the need to place the occupied territories under either an EEC or United Nations mandate until the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference.

The PLO, according to Mr. 'Abd al-Rahman, has now met all "regional and international" conditions for an international conference and "Europe and the United States must now show proof that what they want is peace and not the continuation of the Israeli occupation."

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi on PNC, Arab Issues

JN2111175188 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Nov 88, p 11

[Interview with PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Lutf, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Algiers "after the conclusion of the PNC meetings and shortly before leaving Algiers for Tunis"]

[Text] [Al-Jawhari] How will you be interpreting the decision to declare an independent Palestinian state on the ground and what is the mechanism to be used to implement this decision?

[Qaddumi] This is a political decision, nay, a popular Palestinian will brought about by the uprising. Undoubtedly, the uprising, with its daily practices, will approach the realization of this goal within a short time.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the mechanism of the coming moves on the level of the international community?

[Qaddumi] What is known is that Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will deliver a speech at the United Nations where he will discuss the Palestine question including the declaration of the independent Palestinian state.

[Al-Jawhari] There is the expectation that the declaration of the formation of the Palestinian government will take place at the United Nations.

[Qaddumi] This is not true.

[Al-Jawhari] How about placing the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the temporary supervision of the United Nations? Do you intend to submit a draft resolution in this direction?

[Qaddumi] This is one of the demands we made a long time ago. We are working through the United Nations and the Security Council toward the total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and entrusting the United Nations with the task of a short, temporary supervision of these territories.

We previously submitted numerous draft resolutions to the United Nations and the Security Council and we will continue to submit these draft resolutions until they are agreed on.

[Al-Jawhari] Is it possible that the resolution on temporary supervision will be issued by the Security Council or could it be issued by the United Nations?

[Qaddumi] The resolution should be issued by the UN Security Council.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you expect the United States to use the veto to block the issuance of such a resolution?

[Qaddumi] The United States has not changed its position on this issue. However, we will continue to put international pressures on the United States until it gives its definitive approval of this resolution.

[Al-Jawhari] What development do you expect in the United States' position after the results of the PNC meeting?

[Qaddumi] With the beginning of President Bush's term in the United States, we undoubtedly have to wait and see what he can offer.

Although we heard that they expressed their satisfaction on the PNC's resolutions, some actual and positive steps should be taken in this field.

[Al-Jawhari] What is it you specifically require from Washington now?

[Qaddumi] To recognize the right to self-determination, independence, and sovereignity of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Jawhari] Washington has not accepted the resolutions as they are. The Americans wanted the PLO's recognition of Resolution 242 to prevent the establishment of the Palestinian state. The PNC agreed to the resolution on the condition of the right to self-determination and the declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state.

Is it possible to develop the U.S. position toward coupling acceptance of 242 with the establishment of the Palestinian state?

[Qaddumi] What is happening on Palestinian territory is pushing in this direction. There is no option in the final analysis other than recognizing the independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] I was informed that you were opposed to the recognition of Resolution No. 242 in any formula. How were you convinced in the end?

[Qaddumi] The entire PNC is against the recognition of Resolution No 242. The formula reached says the resolution was not enough and other articles should be added to it—namely, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state.

[Al-Jawhari] But the adopted formula is divisible, in a way that recognition of Resolution No 242 is seperated from the right to self-determination.

[Qaddumi] I do not think there is a recognition. There is acknowledgment that the bases of the [international Middle East peace] conference are Resolution No 242 and the Palestinian right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

[Al-Jawhari] Is it not possible that the political statement be dealt with in parts later?

[Qaddumi] How?

[Al-Jawhari] By focusing on one part rather than another.

[Qaddumi] This is not reasonable, because if there is an international conference, it must be based on these foundations. This Palestinian flexibility to reconcile between Resolution No 242 and the Palestinian rights was meant as a basis for the discussions.

[Al-Jawhari] Do not you think that making this step without obtaining even a promise from Washington to do anything makes it seem as a jump into a vacuum?

[Qaddumi] It is not a jump into a vacuum. On the contrary, our step is closely bound to the declaration of the Palestinian state. The recognition of this state denies that our step is a jump into a vacuum. It is a qualitative jump of the political Palestinian inclination toward the future.

[Al-Jawhari] News reports from Europe say the European capitals received the Palestinian step cautiously, while it was supposed that some optimism regarding the U.S. stand existed in light of 'Arafat's address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. How do you assess the cautious European stand?

[Qaddumi] If it exists, this European caution changes nothing, because Europe, through the EC, recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination in the full sense of the term, including the establishment of a Palestinian state. I do not think there is caution as indicated by the reports you are talking about.

As for recognition, this should be discussed with each individual European state.

[Al-Jawhari] What are your next moves to obtain the recognition by the European countries.?

[Qaddumi] Wide-scale contacts with all countries of the world are supposed to follow to obtain full recognition of the Palestinian state.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you have a certain program of visits?

[Qaddumi] This is inevitable, but the United Nations will be our top priority. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] After Syria's support for the declaration of the Palestinian state, do you expect recognition by Syria?

[Qaddumi] Everything is possible. We do not rule this out at all.

[Al-Jawhari] When do you expect the international conference to be convened? Are you optimistic?

[Qaddumi] No deadline has been set for convoking the conference.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you see Reagan embarking on a history-making move on the Palestinian question before his term expires?

[Qaddumi] President Reagan's term is virtually over and the current period is one of transition until January.

[Al-Jawhari] How can Gorbachev's upcoming talks with Reagan and Bush during the Soviet leader's visit to the United Nations affect the Palestinian question, considering they will focus on East-West detente?

[Qaddumi] We will wait until the concluding statement on the talks.

[Al-Jawhari] What kind of policies do you think Bush will pursue on the Palestinian question?

[Qaddumi] As far as U.S. policies are concerned, we take a circumspect line. It is not easy to define our position before we see facts on the ground.

[Al-Jawhari] The legal term of the PNC was supposed to have expired in February.

[Qaddumi] That's correct. We will look into that. It is not an urgent matter.

[Al-Jawhari] Does the expiry of the PNC's term impugn the legitimacy and constitutionality of the independence document and the political statement?

[Qaddumi] By no means. There is Palestinian unanimity on the document both inside and outside Palestine and in the legislative body, which is the PNC.

[Al-Jawhari] Will the forthcoming Fatah conference that has been the subject of occasional statements be held?

[Qaddumi] The current tasks of the Palestinian revolution require that such issues be given priority. The Fatah conference will be held shortly.

[Al-Jawhari] Can you say roughly when and where?

[Qaddumi] Early next year and the venue has yet to be determined.

[Al-Jawhari] I noticed that all of the Fatah representatives at the PNC were opposed to the political statement, yet they voted for it. How do you explain that?

[Qaddumi] Any historical movement must be propelled by certain convictions. Revolutions are underpinned by the trust placed in the leadership by the cadres. Add to that the the mutual trust between the leadership and rank and file.

Undoubtedly, this PNC session has produced a turning point and that is the declaration of Palestinian independence. This decision is of overriding importance since it enjoys universal support among the Palestinians.

It was decided that this declaration be approved as a key document to quicken the pace of the uprising and enhance the international stature of the PLO.

Not suprprisingly, therefore, the cadres went along with the orientation of the leadership on the political decisions to promote the establishment of the Palestinian state.

[Al-Jawhari] How do you react to Libya's recognition of the Palestinian state in light of the warning by 'Abd al-Sallam Jallud?

[Qaddumi] We welcome it. It speaks for Libya's support for the Palestinian revolution and its national aims in setting up a state.

OPEC Affairs

Further Reportage on Vienna OPEC Conference

No Accord Reached on Ceiling

AU2211173088 Paris AFP in English 1706 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] VIENNA, Nov. 22 (AFP)—Algerian Energy Minister Sadek Boussena on Tuesday dismissed as premature reports that OPEC ministers had settled in favour of an 18.5 million barrels a day production ceiling for 1989.

"It is too early to talk about the ceiling," he told reporters after nearly two-hour talks with Iran's oil minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh on the fringe of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) min sterial conference here.

Mr. Boussena and ministers from Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela have acted as go-betweens, seeking to ease differences between Iran and Iraq and Arab Gulf countries over production levels and national quotas for next year.

The Algerian minister was cautiously optimistic on chances for a deal. "Things may move faster than expected," he commented.

Asked whether talks still focused on Iran-Iraq issues, he said: "That's the problem."

He said he saw no point in adjourning the talks and holding a further ministerial session before the end of the year. "We may very well reach an agreement without leaving Vienna" and return for a second round, he said.

Earlier, the Indonesian and Venezuelan ministers spoke of "very good" progress after their talks with Mr. Aqazadeh.

The Nigerian minister replied with a more sceptical "maybe" when asked whether he saw any prospects for completing the talks on Wednesday.

A Kuwaiti delegate said Wednesday might be the "decisive" day.

IRNA Notes Lack of Progress

LD2211220388 Tehran IRNA in English 2120 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, Nov 23, IRNA—OPEC ministers here have not yet agreed on the organization's production ceiling and production quotas of member states and may soon be flying home for consultation with their respective governments.

One OPEC minister was quoted Tuesday as saying that the 13 member states of the organization are likely to agree on 18.5 million bpd [barrels per day] as the production ceiling of the organization. Certain OPEC ministers, among them Iran's oil minister Aqazadeh, have disconfirmed the report.

The Iranian Oil Minister Aqazadeh on Tuesday conferred with oil ministers from Indonesia, Venezuela, and Nigeria.

One member of the Iranian delegation said here today that they had not yet received any suggestion for solving Iraq's quota problem.

Algeria

USSR's Akhromeyev Meets Merba, Other Officials

LD2211211088 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Kasdi Merba today conferred with Marshal S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of staff of the USSR Armed Forces and USSR first deputy defense minister. The talks, which were attended by Brigadier General Mohamed Allag and the Soviet ambassador in Algiers, dealt with bilateral cooperation relations.

Marshal Akhromeyev also met with Mr Abdelhamid Maheri, the official in charge of the FLN Permanent Secretariat at the FLN party headquarters today. They discussed Algerian-Soviet cooperation relations and means for bolstering and developing them.

They also discussed the good relations between the two parties [the FLN and the CPSU] and the ties of friendship, which were forged during the Algerian war of independence.

Israeli Bid To Attack Al-Sunawbar Club Denied

PM2311112688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Nov 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Responsible Algerian Source Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Truth in Reports of Abortive Israeli Attempt To Blow Up Al-Sunawbar Club"]

[Text] Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—High-ranking responsible Algerian sources have denied in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT a report published recently by an Arab newspaper claiming that Palestinian surveillance and Algerian intelligence organs foiled three Israeli attempts to blow up Al-Sunawbar club where the birth of the Palestinian independent state was announced and that nine collaborators with the Zionist enemy were arrested. The sources said that the report was a fabrication with no truth in it whatsoever.

The day before yesterday an Arab newspaper quoted what it described as a "senior" Palestinian official as saying that a group of nine Israelis abandoned the mission entrusted to it when it felt that it was being watched by Algerian intelligence and Palestinian surveillance organs.

It was also reported that the Israelis entered Algeria on Moroccan, Yemeni, and Iraqi passports and left it a few days before the beginning of the PNC session when they sensed that they had been found out. The reports also claimed that a man called "Abu Rabi'" was the leader of the ring whose members were all arrested by the Algerian authorities.

Egypt

Further on Talks With Palestinian Delegation

NC2211160388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Egyptian-Palestinian talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. The Egyptian delegation was led by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Palestinian delegation was led by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman.

Following the conclusion of the talks, 'Arafat disclosed that the discussion had dealt with the steps that will be taken as a result of the PNC meetings and the ways of acting at the local, Arab, and international levels.

He added that the issue of forming the Palestinian government will continue to be studied until he returns from the United Nations.

'Arafat noted that President Husni Mubarak had informed him through Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid that the U.S. Administration has agreed to grant him a visa to address the UN General Assembly.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman said that he has a mission to complete in New York as he has the right to move within a 25-mile radius. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Departs Cairo

NC2211223888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2234 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat departed from Cairo tonight at the conclusion of a 2-day visit, during which he met with President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials.

Abu Ghazalah on Ties Under Bush, Military Talks

NC2311123388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Nov (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has expressed the hope that Egyptian-U.S. relations will remain good after President-elect George Bush takes office and will improve during his administration.

In answer to a question on the current Egyptian-U.S. military talks in Washington, Abu Ghazalah said:

Every year we submit a memorandum on the military aid to Egypt. The task of the Egyptian military delegation present there now is to explain the provisions of the memorandum on military aid for the year 1990.

Answering another question on whether there will be joint exercises soon, Abu Ghazalah said that there are programs for these military exercises, which are agreed upon every 2 years with various states.

He added: These programs are being implemented in the normal way. We announce any exercises before they take place. As for this year, the programs for joint exercises have ended and there will be no further joint exercises this year.

Official, Media Commentary on PNC Resolutions

'Abd al-Majid on EC Statement

NC2211202288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1902 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry today lauded the EC foreign ministers' statement which welcomed the PNC resolutions adopted in Algiers on 15 November. The ministers' statement was issued at a meeting in Brussels yesterday.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed this in a statement he made today. He said the EC statement is an expression of the spirit of the EC officials and emanates from the Community's desire to acknowledge legitimate Palestinian rights.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid added that this statement will have a great and important effect in promoting the peace process in the Middle East. He noted EC countries' vital role with regard to convening an international peace conference.

The foreign ministers of the EC countries issued a statement yesterday, Monday, in which they welcomed the positive steps included in the recent PNC resolutions.

Commentator Hits U.S. Response

PM2211163688 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Nov 88 p 13

[Ahmad Baha' al-Din article: "The Broken Record"]

[Text] I spent an hour listening to the VOA ask various people in Washington about their reactions to the declaration of the Palestinian state and the documents accompanying it.

Among the speakers were officials from the White House and the State Department, as well as "experts" close to the government such as Fu'ad 'Ajami, their expert on Middle Eastern affairs, who is of Lebanese origin.

The Americans again repeated the same words: "We have not yet seen the full text;" "the recognition of Israel is not direct enough;" "the recognition of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 as a basis for an international conference is not clear."

So they actually want Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 to be the "only" basis for negotiation, that is, in isolation from other UN resolutions and indeed from the original and principal resolution, namely, Resolution No 181, which was the fundamental one.

As for the southern Lebanese university professor, their expert on Middle Eastern affairs, he said: The Palestinians still speak several languages: Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] speaks to the Arabs in Arabic, to the Israelis in Hebrew, and to the Americans in English. So Palestinian moderation is a language addressed to the United States alone. But there are other languages and tones.

I do not really know what the United States wants before the Palestinian call for peace becomes clear: Does it want PNC members to go to the Knesset, begging for mercy?

Does it want Abu 'Ammar to send bouquets of flowers to Yitzhaq Shamir; to General Sharon, the commander in charge of the attempt to suppress the uprising; and to Yitzhaq Rabin, who orders the arrest of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip by imposing a complete curfew for 6 successive days and orders the shooting of at any child carrying a Palestinian flag?

We did not expect the United States and Israel to say in response to the decisions: We believe! We knew it was the start of a bitter political struggle.

We expected them to be patient, but they hastily supplied the same old answers, prepared for use even before the PNC was convened. They are concealing the fact that the decisions have struck them like a thunderbolt, which is why they do not yet know how to deal with them!

Columnist Hails Resolutions

JN2211141788 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 18 Nov 88 pp 4-6

[Dispatch from Algiers by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "The Palestinians Choose the Right Time To Announce Their Recognition of Resolution No 242"]

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of the emergency session of the PNC, the Palestinians finally announced their recognition of Resolution No 242 within the context of a political statement that proclaims the establishment of the state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital while still under Israeli occupation.

The statement stresses the PLO's agreement to an international conference on the basis of Resolution No 242, over which the Palestinians hesitated for a long time before they granted it an explicit and clear recognition.

Although the decision was issued by the majority of those who attended the PNC meeting (253 votes), the opponents of the decision (46 votes) announced in an

unprecedented Palestinian position their respect for the majority's decision and their commitment to act within the framework of the PLO and their rejection of any new dissension calls.

Fatah and other organizations—foremost, the DFLP (Hawatimah)—have approved the decision, while it was opposed by the PFLP (George Habash). The representatives of the Al-Sa'iqah and some small dissident factions connected with the Syrian regime did not attend. [passage omitted]

The significance of the recent PNC resolutions, according to 'Arafat's own words, is that they are an important strategic change in the march of the Palestine question imposed by international, Arab, and Palestinian circumstances.

These seem opportune because the Palestinians have refused to continue to behave like an ostrich, which buries its head in the sand to avoid seeing reality. The Palestinians have explicitly and unequivocally opted for peace and coexistence while the Israelis have not been able to define for themselves a clear option between war and peace and have preferred instead to remain at a difficult impasse.

In fact, they gave themselves a new predicament when a large percentage voted for the extremist religious parties to avoid making the hard choice between Peres and Shamir during the recent elections.

In the Palestinians' opinion, even if Shamir succeeds in forming his coalition government with an alliance of small religious parties, he cannot continue very long.

The Israeli house will be more divided and Israel will find itself forced to yield to the blackmail of these small religious parties, which insist on demands that Israel cannot accommodate now.

The request by these parties for a more definitive meaning of who is a Jew increases the divisions within the Israeli community. If applied, this stringent definition of who is a Jew will exclude Jews coming from the United States, including elements of Gush Emunim, the most extremist terrorist organization against the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The final result is that Israel will become more isolated, Israel's face more ugly, its society more disintegrated, the impasse more difficult, and violance more widespread.

For these reasons, Shamir's government will not last long, and in the end the Israelis will find themselves forced to take the correct option. [passage omitted]

It is obvious—so far—that 'Arafat will not ask the Arabs or foreigners to recognize the Palestinian state under the occupation. It also does not seem that 'Arafat is in a hurry to establish a provisional government for this state unless it becomes certain that the international conference will convene.

'Arafat told me the following: "I believe that it will not be useful to form a provisional government for the new state. The task of the government is to hold negotiations at the international conference. Consequently, it will be wise to delay the formation of the government until few months before the international conference. The PLO Executive Committee will embark on its mission to form this government at the appropriate time."

In accordance with the calculations of the Palestinians, current world conditions will help the Palestinians accomplish the Palestinian objective. International detente has prepared a new international atmosphere to resolve the regional disputes on the basis of a balance of interests.

As the two superpowers opened the way for a peaceful solution to the problems of Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa, it is certain—in the Palestinian viewpoint—that the Middle East will not be very far behind, particularly since the talks between the Soviet and American sides on the international conference have entered—in accordance with the Palestinian viewpoint also—into a discussion of details related to the arrangements for convening the conference.

'Arafat asserted to me that, although the Soviets rule out any armed conflict to resolve the Middle East problem, they gave the Palestinians what we can call guarantees that the peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem should include the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

And the Americans—as 'Arafat asserted to me—have advanced along the same road with steps that might not be considered sufficient, but their signs cannot be ignored.

Palestinian rights have moved from U.S. neglect to U.S. concern. The American stand on what is taking place in the Middle East stems now from a new vision—that is, the ongoing conflict on Palestinian territory is in its essence a conflict between two ethical movements.

This conflict can only be settled through the recognition of the Palestinian rights and the effective participation of Palestinian representatives in all stages of settlement.

What increases the hopes of the Palestinians in the possibility that the U.S. stand will make another step forward is that the U.S. Administration under President

Reagan was able to advance calculated steps demonstrated in the statements by Shultz in which he said that the Palestinians should be certain that their recognition of Resolution No 242 does not mean relinquishing their legitimate political rights.

Therefore, the Palestinians believe that the Republicans' assumption of power will make the issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict part of President Bush's program, particularly since he is aware of the details of the file and realizes the dimensions of the issue.

These are the overall circumstances that prompted the Palestinian majority to declare their acceptance of Resolution No. 242 as a basis for convening the international conference.

This acceptance came within the framework of a new Palestinian stand declaring the establishment of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital while still under the Israeli occupation.

The most important thing 'Arafat said at the conclusion of the PNC session is this:

"It is important not to postpone what we can do today until tomorrow. If tomorrow carries the national rights of the Palestinian people, we must not hesitate to make the decision so that we can avoid losses and sacrifices and reduce the time of our people's tribulation in the occupied territory."

'Change' Surprises Israel

NC2211212888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary from the "Newsreel" program]

[Excerpts] An official Israeli statement has declared that the PNC Resolutions declaring the establishment of the Palestinian state have changed the course of peace.

The statement also describes these resolutions as obstacles to a settlement and as maneuvres that have diverted world public opinion from the solution.

A perusal of this official Israeli statement clearly shows that this serious Palestinian change took the Israeli Government by surprise to such an extent that it was forced to issue this distorted statement.

Editorials carried in the Israeli press, which is trying to explain the official Israeli position, say that the declaration of the Palestinian state is an issue not included within the settlement framework.

We would like to ask: What settlement is Israel talking about? Yitzhaq Shamir, who has been officially asked to form the new Israeli government, is declaring day and night that he rejects the convocation of an international peace conference. He also rejects a dialogue with the PLO.

If this is the official Israeli position, then how could anyone in the world claim that the establishment of the Palestinian state on the basis of international legitimacy means changing the course of peace?

Israel has persistently demanded for many years that the PLO recognize Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. It has said that this Palestinian recognition would be a testimony of the PLO's good behavior and conduct toward the peace process and toward Israel.

The PLO has responded and has taken this historic decision, which the EEC described in its statement yesterday as a positive step toward a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

The strange thing is that Shim'on Peres—who used to support the holding of an international conference and made this issue the core of his election program—has now taken the same unyielding stand on the Palestinian resolutions.

He has described them as merely a Palestinian maneuvre that plays around with words. This is as if recognition of the two Security Council resolutions, recognition of Israel, and official renunciation of terrorism are mere playing around with words and do not help the cause of peace in the region.

Everyone must realize that the Palestinians have given the world and peace all that everyone has been demanding of them. We believe that world public opinion has enough sense to be able to differentiate between those who truly want peace and those who are maneuvering around it.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Decision

JN2111165288 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Nov 88 p 6

[Text] Following the growing Arab and international recognition of and support for the PNC decision to establish an independent Palestinian state, an important question arises on the nature of the next move to start a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East dispute.

In fact, Arab diplomatic efforts should be doubled to explain to the international community the meaning of the Palestinian resolutions, how they are a good step forward that provide answers to the various questions on borders, confederation with Jordan, recognition of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, and the Cairo Declaration renouncing terrorism.

Such an explanation should clarify foreign policies toward recognizing the Palestinian state; supporting this positive Palestinian step; or assessing the step as a tangible, clear, and logical development in the Palestinian position and a new stage of struggle to achieve the Palestinian people's national aspirations to end the Israeli occupation and declare the independent Palestinian entity.

As it begins its urgent move, Arab diplomacy should confront the current Israeli Foreign Ministry's counter-campaign to prevent the world from recognizing the new Palestinian state. Israel knows the difficulty of its campaign because the PLO, which declared the establishment of an independent state, is recognized by more than 140 of the world's countries.

But as we know, intransigence and procrastination characterize Israel's foreign policy, which needs much serious work and self-restraint to admit and face the fait accompli.

In its new move, Arab diplomacy should maintain the momentum achieved by Egyptian diplomacy on the Palestine question during the past stage. This diplomacy managed to take the cause out of the two superpowers' storage and turn it into a subject of interest to the two giants and to benefit from the spirit of detente and current moves aimed at reaching just solutions to regional problems and conflicts.

It has become clear to the entire world that those who have legal claims have responded and showed readiness to achieve peace and stability.

Socialist Party Leader Comments

NC2211141688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Nov (MENA)—Socialist Labor Party leader Eng Ibrahim Shukri has said that Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state has great dimensions that rise above any other recogniion, including that of the Soviet Union.

Interviewed by MENA, Eng Shukri remarked that Egypt, which has chosen the road of peace and given Israel a golden opportunity to follow this road, is saying to Israel: You must understand this step and travel on the road to peace.

Commenting on his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Shukri said that, after holding high-level political talks in Egypt, 'Arafat was eager to brief the Egyptian opposition parties on the recent PNC meetings, the proclamation of the Palestinian state, and the necessary decisions to be taken to back this successful step.

Shukri stressed in the interview the need to concentrate efforts on highlighting the larger meaning of the declaration of the Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

NPUG Head on Camp David, Egypt's Revolution

JN2111131088 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Nov 88 p 25

[By Mahmud al-Sharbini]

[Excerpts] In his lengthy statement to AL-ANBA', Khalid Muhyi al-Din, leader of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], says: [Passage omitted] Some people criticize the NPUG's stand calling for the abrogation of the Camp David accords in the international conference on the basis that it is an invalid and illegal treaty and that presenting it in this way will legalize it.

We differ with this opinion. We want through this call to end the strange article in this accord—that is, the eternity of this Camp David accords. One of its articles stipulates that it cannot be amended without the agreement of its three parties—the United States, Israel, and Egypt.

This simply means that the UNEF will remain on our borders and the Sinai will remain disarmed forever and Israel will do whatever it likes. There is no agreement in the world that has such a strange article. Therefore, Egypt will have an opportunity in the international conference to abrogate this agreement and sign a new one.

Hence comes our insistence on the importance of Egypt's attendance of this conference as some Arab countries do not want this. The USSR and the PLO insisted on Egypt's attendance. The Unionist Party, therefore, wants to annul the Camp David accord's eternity.

The same people accuse me frankly of wasting the historic opportunity of the Egyptian left wing when we accepted the Fes resolutions because they recognize Israel. I communicated my opinion to one of the Palestinian brothers from the PFLP when he asked me: Do you agree on recognizing Israel?

I said: I support a comprehensive solution to the cause, an international peace conference, the establishment of a Palestinian state, right to self-determination, and the recognition of all people's right to existence.

If the Fes summit would result in establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and the price is the recognition of Israel we will agree on this as long as a [Palestinian] state will be established. This will serve our long-term objectives. [passage omitted]

The Egypt's Revolution Organization is a part of the Egyptian people's struggle against normalization. Its members are patriotic. They believe that the way to end normalization and Israeli and American presence in Egypt is to shoot their diplomatic representatives in Egypt.

Every person has the right to choose his way of struggle. We respect this. However, this does not bind us to adopt their view and follow their method because we are a political party that follows peaceful ways and does not approve of political assassinations.

If we follow this way we have to turn our party into an armed party. We support armed struggle against foreign occupation. I struggled against the British in the Suez Canal, but we did not strike at British diplomats in Egypt.

Killing diplomats is not stronger than a unified stand adopted by the opposition to force the government to reject normalization and end Israeli presence in Egypt.

If political assassination resolves problems we will see the entire world today thinking of resolving its problems in this way. Therefore, we believe that political assassination does not serve the cause. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR on Al-Rayyan Investigations

JN2211144888 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 18 Nov 88 pp 14-17, 54-56, 69

[By 'Izzat Ibrahim]

[Excerpts] The funds and properties of the capital investment companies are being seized for only one objective, namely, to protect the interests of the depositors. This is what the public prosecutor said and what can also be deduced from the efforts being exerted by the government, whether through the meetings held by the Egyptian Council of Ministers or the decisions made by the Ministries of Interior, Justice, and Economy. All these measures are geared toward the same objective.

This comprehensive inquiry reveals a list of names that have so been mentioned in the interrogations and investigations of the Public Funds Authority, the Public Prosecution, and judicial quarters.

The report submitted by Al-Rayyan Company's Financial Center to the Public Prosecution indicates that the company has granted loans to the following companies:

Al-Tunisi Company: 2.5 million pounds

Ashraf al-Sa'd Company: 10 million pounds

Al-Wazzan Contracting Company: 3 million pounds to purchase a building opposite Al-Jizah Public Security Department, although the building does not exist

Fathi al-Asmar: 2.5 million pounds

Iman al-Bahr Darwish [Egyptian singer]: 100,000 pounds

Al-Fayruz Hospital in Al-Duqqi: 7.5 million pounds.

'Ali al-Turk, marble plant owner: 3 million pounds

Some 11 million pounds, the value of 11,000 tonnes of beans bought for the government

The report on the interrogation of Rabi' 'Abd al-Rahim al-Sa'dawi, under secretary of the Local Government Ministry who served as private secretary of Fathi al-Rayyan after obtaining leave without pay from the government, includes the following:

Former Interior Minister al-Nabawi Isma'il served as special advisor to Fathi al-Rayyan and traveled with Al-Rayyan to the United States in 1986 to negotiate and sign a contract in the name of Al-Rayyan Company to import corn for the sum of $26 million.

The contract was signed at a price of $92 per tonne. The corn was sold to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture at a price of $101 per tonne.

In the same year also, Al-Nabawi Isma'il traveled with Fathi al-Rayyan, People's Assembly member Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad, and the director general of the Egyptian Petroleum Company to the United States to serve as commission agents in the world oil market in return for a commission of $3 per barrel for Al-Rayyan Company.

Al-Sa'dawi added in his statements that Mahmud al-Nabawi Isma'il, owner of Seven Seas Company in the United States, used to work as an agent for Al-Rayyan Company in the United States and that he concluded timber and corn deals for Al-Rayyan Company at a monthly salary of 1,000 Egyptian pounds.

The report on the interrogation of Rabi' al-Sa'dawi also says that Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid [not further identified] worked as special financial and economic advisor to Fathi al-Rayyan and toward the end of 1986 he tried to purchase the American side of the Bank of America-Egypt in favor of Fathi al-Rayyan.

However, Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Central Bank, opposed the sale to Al-Rayyan and the deal fell through. Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid obtained 30,000 pounds from Fathi al-Rayyan as a commission for the deal to purchase Al-Wahah Hotel on the Cairo-Alexandria highway.

Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan, former governor of Al-Jizah, who was a senior aide to Fathi Al-Rayyan, was given two buses by Fathi al-Rayyan in 1986 as a gift for the School of Languages, whose board is chaired by 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan.

In 1986 also, 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan and his wife left for the United States for treatment. Fathi al-Rayyan instructed Rabi' al-Sa'dawi to contract the company's

branch in the United States to assign a Mercedes and two body guards to Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan. Fathi also funded all Dr Hasan's purchases and expenses in the United States.

Al-Sa'dawi added in the interrogation before the representatives of the Public Funds Authority that in October 1987 he was instructed by Fathi Al-Rayyan to contact the Al-Rayyan Company's agent in West Germany to purchase a Mercedes in the name of Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan and to ship it to Egypt in the name of Dr Hasan. Fathi paid the price of the car as well as the customs duty on it.

Al-Sa'dawi said that all Dr Hasan's parties were catered by Al-Rayyan's Oriental Food Restaurant.

Tahir al-Asmar, former secretary general of Al-Jizah Governorate, was one of Fathi al-Rayyan's closest friends. Al-Sa'dawi heard that Fathi presented a Mercedes to Al-Asmar as a gift.

Fathi al-Rayyan paid 6.5 million pounds to the consulting firm headed by the brother of Dr 'Abd al-Ahad Jamal al-Din, minister of youth and sports.

Kamal Rida, under secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture for financial and administrative affairs, obtained a commission of 60,000 pounds from Fathi al-Rayyan in 1986 for mediating in a deal to purchase Al-Nubariyah land from Al-Hilalk Company. [passage omitted]

Al-Rayyan's Liquid Assets With Publishing Houses and Publishers

With AL-AHRAM, $11.5 million in addition to 3 million Egyptian pounds

With AL-AKHBAR and ALKHBAR AL-YAWM, $4 million

With the newspaper MAYU, 3 million Egyptian pounds

With the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR, 3 million Egyptian pounds

With the magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF, 3 million Egyptian pounds

With Al-Sha'b Publishing House, 1.5 million Egyptian pounds

For UKTUBAR magazine, 4 million Egyptian pounds

For the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, 1 million Egyptian pounds

For Dar al-Shuruq Publishing House, 4 million Egyptian pounds

For Al-Salafiyah Printing Press, 3 million Egyptian pounds [passage omitted]

Censorship of Case Viewed

JN2211124988 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Nov 88 p 1

[Article by Sa'id Sunbul: "Ban of Publication"]

[Text] The case of Al-Rayyan brothers is an extraordinary one. It is not a case of burglary, embezzlement, or even murder, but an amazing case of cheating unprecedented in Egypt's history.

Yes, it is unprecedented in Egypt's history that three semi-educated brothers embark on the the biggest act of cheating such as the Al-Rayyan brothers. The victims of this act are thousands of citizens.

It had never occurred throughout Egypt's history that intellectuals and nonintellectuals, beginning with university professors and ending with illiterates, have competed to give their money to three unknown persons without even questioning their history and past, or thinking about the nature of their activity.

In light of this, the Al-Rayyan brothers' case, with the excitement and suspense it includes, has become the subject of discussion in every house and for every citizen in Egypt.

This is why the decision banning publication of any material in connection with investigation on this case has astonished the public opinion and urged them to ask why, and in whose interest is this decision?

The decisions banning publications are usually issued in the interest of investigation, and for reasons seen by the prosecutor general and the investigator, and that might not be seen by the ordinary citizen. The contradiction of the publications that accompanied investigation on this case was undoubtedly the reason that urged the prosecutor general to ban publication.

He did so out of his concern for the progress of investigation and out of his care for the reputation of innocents from being tarnished, until all facts have become clear away from rumors and speculations. This is especially necessary since there is much talk about influential persons who are said to have planned for and encouraged the gang of the three brothers, and consequently participated in their crimes directly or indirectly.

As usual, skeptical persons have tried to show that the decision banning publication helps impose news blackout on important personalities said to have connived with the gang of the three brothers, and paves the way for them to escape justice.

In my opinion, this would not happen and will never happen. Neither the public opinion, nor the investigation authorities, nor the political leaderships will allow this to take place.

In his address to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, President Husni Mubarak was frank and clear when he said that no one, whoever he may be, will ever be able to escape the authority of law. There was a very long applause when the president made this statement.

The president was very concerned about repeating this statement so as to be heard by every citizen in Egypt and that everyone be reassured that no one can be above the law.

If the public opinions follows up various issues out of curiosity, tens of thousands of Egyptian citizens are following up investigations on the Al-Rayyan case, not as spectators, but as a party to the case. Investigations usually take a long time, especially on such issues which have several parties and aspects. This is why the decision banning publications would awaken the concerns and fears of tens of thousands of depositors.

I do not have the right to call for lifting the ban of publications because this is the right of the prosecutor general. However, I have the right to propose to the prosecutor general that he make an announcement, from time to time or at the end of every week, on the progress of investigation and on whether there are facts that can be announced without harming the investigation, especially since the citizens' information and testimonies on this case could be necessary.

By this, the depositors' concerns and fears could be removed. What the people are interested in is getting their money back, and seeing that the law applies to those who perpetrated, helped, and encouraged the biggest cheating ever in Egypt's history.

Libya

Italian Paper Interviews Al-Qadhdhafi

AU2311122888 Rome ANSA in English 0909 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, November 22—"We try to be good neighbors because we hope the Mediterranean will become a sea of peace" Libyan strongman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said in an interview published in Tuesday's edition of the Rome daily, PAESE SERA.

On Italo-Libyan relations, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said he hoped a settlement of Libya's war-damage claims could be achieved "in a friendly manner" and that he wanted the two nations to develop cooperation and "non-aggression."

At this point, the Rome daily recalled that Libya's firing of two missiles at the Italian island of Lampedusa on April 15, 1986, was "not exactly a message of friendship," to which Al-Qadhdhafi replied "it was only a warning, not an attempt at a massacre".

Libya fired the missiles the day after American jets attacked Tripoli and Benghasi because Washington alleged Libya had masterminded terrorist attacks against American targets in Europe.

Al-Qadhdhafi told PAESE SERA that he and his government had no ties whatsoever with terrorist organisations such as Italy's Red Brigades, Japan's Red Army, or the Basque separatist group ETA". [quotation mark as received]

He also rejected charges that his nation was preparing to produce chemical weapons, saying "we are only building a plant to produce medicines."

Arab Maghreb Draft Unity Plan Reported

JN2211130588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The newspaper TISHRIN has published a statement by (Sulayman al-Shahhum), deputy secretry of the Libyan General People's Congress, that the declaration of the unity of the Arab Maghreb countries is now ready and is awaiting slight touches regarding the name of the union and whether it should be called a union or confederation.

He added that the topics listed on the agenda of the meetings of the five Arab Maghreb countries' leaders and their competent ministers were studied and discussed, and that all that remained was for these countries to declare the union. He expected the declaration to take place early next year.

JANA Editor Cited on Egypt, PNC Resolution

LD2211190388 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] News agencies are reporting that the Zionists are angry with Egypt. They are condemning it, saying that it has violated the Camp David agreement when it announced its recognition of the PNC resolution proclaiming a Palestinian state. On this Zionist position, the JANA Arab affairs editor wrote saying:

The Great Jamahiriyah has rejected these accords [Camp David accords] in form a substance and (?described) their signatory [words indistinct] Sadat as having committed a great mistake. This agreement tore Egypt from the Arab homeland and despised the blood of the martyrs who were sacrificed in Sinai for the Arabness of Egypt, occupied Palestine, and the remainder of the Arab territories.

Notwithstanding this principled pan-Arab stance, the Zionists' condemnation of Egypt for its recognition of the Palestinian state on the grounds that this recognition violates the Camp David accords raises a number of questions. We already know the answers to these, but we shall repeat them to unveil the hidden objectives of these accords which are not in the interests of Egypt nor the Palestinian Arab people and, consequently, constitute a great threat to the national interests of our motherland.

We ask: Is there anything left of this treasonous agreement that has not been violated by the Zionists? Did not his agreement proscribe the setting up of settlements in the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 and the dismantling of those that had already been established? have the Zionists adhered to this?

We know, as do all freemen of the Arab motherland that none of these [words indistinct] settlements came after the agreement was signed. Moreover, did not this agreement stipulate granting autonomy to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

While mentioning this, we would like to affirm our absolute conviction that liberation cannot occur unless it is from the [Mediterranean] Sea to the [Jordan] River. [Words indistinct] from the point of [word indistinct] and nothing else. Have the Zionists been faithful to what they signed? We shall not answer that because the answer is clear and requires no further proof.

The editor went on to say: Thus, what is left of these accords that were designed to serve the Zionists and their plans for to destroy pan-Arabism and [words indistinct]. It has become clear that the Zionists are using this agreement to blackmail Egypt and control its will and Arabism in order to cancel its pan-Arab nationalist struggling role and to neutralize the Egyptian front so as to be free to destroy and neutralize the remaining fronts.

The Zionists have, in cooperation with U.S. imperialism, created this humiliating agreement as a restriction on the movement of Egypt should it wish to disengage. As for them, they are free to violate it whenever they want, for no one can confront them as they are the victors and the victor is not asked what he does.

The editor said: It is this logic which explains the Zionists' protestation to Egypt over its recognition of the Palestinian state as a violation of the terms of the agreemeent. As for the crimes that are committed daily by the Zionists against the Palestinian Arab people, they are not considered as a violation of the agreement is binding on Egypt but not on them.

This is the core of the relationship established by this humiliating agreement between Egypt and the Zionist enemy; a fact that was confirmed by the terrorist Menahem Begin to the defunct Sadat, quoting texts from the Torah which deceive the Zionists. [passage omitted].

The JANA Arab affairs editor concluded his commentary by stressing that the objective and historical rights commit us to the belief that our conflict with the Zionist enemy is one of existence not borders. The illusion of coexistence with the Zionist is a lethal one whose beginning is the same as its end: treason, destruction, and loss of dignity.

History and reality confirm to us that the arrogant usurper does not deal with logic and agreements but only with force. This is the evidence. Egypt should recognize the Palestinian state.

Nonetheless, the will for liberation is inherent in the souls and consciences of the sons of our Arab motherland from the Ocean to the Gulf. The (?omen) for that is what is being witnessed in the struggle of the generation of anger which is fighting the Zionists every day without turning to papers signed here or there.

This generation represents the strength inherent in our motherland which will rout the Zionists who cause corruption on earth. This revolutionary, strong-willed generation will retrieve all that has been usurped and occupied by the Zionist and imperialist powers.

Tribute should be paid to the generation of anger for this contribution to the struggle which is a sincere statement which expresses the nature of the nationalist struggle for the liberation of our occupied Arab territories.

Al-Qadhdhafi Wants OPEC To Pressure Iraq

LD2111071888 Tehran IRNA in English 0710 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 21, IRNA—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reiterated his country's support for Iran's stand against world arrogance and its reactionary flunkeys. He also underlined the need for all-out resistance against imperialism.

Al-Qadhdhafi made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Asadi Khonsari Sunday.

Khonsari informed the Libyan leader of Iraq's hampering of Geneva peace talks and disputes among members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which he feared would prevent them from reaching agreement to boost the falling oil prices.

In response the Libyan leader said OPEC states should pressure Iraq to abide by the organisation's regulations for the sake of a unanimous agreement.

Khonsari also proposed the formation of a first joint economic, industrial and cultural commission between the two countries at ministerial level which was welcomed by Al-Qadhdhafi.

Country 'Ready To Accept' 70,000 Tunisian Workers

LD1911051188 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0430 GMT 19 Nov 88

["Pool" item—by Dejan Lukic]

[Text] Tripoli, Nov 19 (TANJUG)—Ten thousand Tunisian workers are preparing to go to Libya on the basis of an agreement recently signed by the two countries.

All of them, in addition to the several thousand Tunisians who are already in Libya, will be given jobs, mostly in agriculture and services.

According to some estimates, Libya is ready to accept about 70,000 Tunisians as its contribution to the difficult economic situation in the neighbouring country with its 14-per cent unemployment rate.

In the summer of 1985, when Tripoli decided to cancel its hospitality to Tunisian workers, there were about 30,000 of them working in the Jamahiriya.

Libya's decision resulted in a crisis between the two countries and the closing of borders.

The new Tunisian "invasion" of Libya, which follows the restoration of Libyan-Tunisian relations after the fall of Bourguiba a year ago, is part of Al-Qadhdhafi's policy of full opening towards Arab, especially Maghreb, countries, among which Tunisia holds a privileged position.

The pavements of Libyan towns are crowded with Tunisian merchants and Tunisian consumer goods transported to Libya without any tax or other restrictions since Al-Qadhdhafi "erased" the border and blew up the passport and customs building at the Ras Jedir border crossing.

It is estimated that since March, some 400,000 Libyans have used formalities on the Libyan side, emptying the shelves of Tunisian consumer goods shops, especially in border towns.

According to some estimates, the Libyans have spent over 180 million dollars in Tunisia this year.

In order to relieve the Ras Jedir crossing, where hundreds of cars wait to enter Tunisia for several hours, the Libyan and Tunisian authorities launched shipping services on July 24 from the Libyan ports of Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi to the Tunisian port of Sfax.

Maritime Cooperation Agreement Signed With SRV

LD2011030288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Nov (JANA)—This afternoon in Tripoli the minutes of an agreement were signed for technological and technical cooperation in the domain of maritime resources between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The minutes of the agreement, signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Maritime Resources and Vietnamese Marine Products Minister Nguyen Tan Trinh, provides for studies and research in the domain of maritime topography, fish farming, construction and maintenance of ships, and the building of maritime fishing ports in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The agreement also provides for an exchange of expertise and information in the field of maritime resources between the two friendly countries.

Palestinian Official Lauds 'Pioneering Role'

LD2011163988 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, Nov. 20 (JANA)—Dr Samir Ghushih, the secretary general of the Palestinian People's Struggle Front, and the delegation in his company arrived last night in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

The secretary general lauded the firm and principled stances of the Libyan Arab people and its leader of the revolution towards the Palestinian Arab people and support and backing for it for right to self determination and return and the setting up of its independent Palestinian state on the whole Arab territory of Palestine.

In a statement to the correspondent of JANA, Dr Samir Ghushih expressed his high appreciation and pride in the pioneering role being undertaken by the Libyan Arab people on the side of its brotherly Palestinian people in the struggle against the savages of the 20th century—the Zionists.

Sudan

Garang Seeks Meeting With Prime Minister

EA2211155188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1053 GMT 22 Nov

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Nov—Today's "AL-ADWA" reports that Colonel John Garang has again expressed his desire to meet Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The paper says this was conveyed in a letter sent the day before yesterday [20 Nov] by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to the prime minister, apprising the latter that Garang had contacted him and expressed the desire, in principle, for such a meeting.

This follows the signing of the peace accord by Garang and the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party in Addis Ababa last week. Museveni had conveyed earlier to the prime minister John Garang's desire to negotiate with the government, but the meeting did not take place on the appointed date.

Ministers Council Postpones Peace Talks

EA2211155688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Last Wednesday evening [16 Nov] the Council of Ministers postponed indefinitely discussion of the Sudanese peace initiative signed between the Democratic Unionist Party and Garang's movement in Addis Ababa recently.

The postponement was made to give the parties of the government of concord time to consult and study the articles of the agreement and to form an opinion on it.

Further on Attack on Defense Minister's Plane

'Dissident' Group Blamed

EA2111202188 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1400 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The SPLA is following the example made by the Anya Nya II to accept peace after losing many lives and national wealth. There is one characteristic in the SPLA form of peace. Whenever the SPLA starts making peace, it is always followed by big incidents.

For instance, when Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi was talking with John Garang in Addis Ababa on how peace could be attained in the Sudanese society in 1986, the SPLA shot down the Sudan Air full of civilians with 53 children on board died, most of them were children and women [sentence as heard]

It is now (?repeating) again. Last (?Thursday) the SPLA brought down by military (?force) the military plane which carried the defense minister and the commander in chief of the Sudanese Army and the senior officers who were delegates because they want Sudan to stay in peace. No life was lost in that military plane which was shot down over Wau town.

This kind of (?barbaric) act has put the Sudanese into difficulties how to understand the SPLA motives towards peace. We are sure the shooting of the military plane over Wau town was not ordered by the SPLA Headquarters.

We believe the shooting was from the dissident groups of 1) the followers of Lieutenant Colonel Carabino Kuany Bol, who is now under SPLA house arrest; 2) the followers under the group of Lieutenant Colonel Martin Makue Aleo to whom we are not informed of his whereabouts after rebelling against the SPLA.

Ladies and gentlemen, [words indistinct] of the SPLA Movement might play a role against the peace with the Sudan Government for himself alone and does not want to make peace with the others who are rebels like himself.

Rebel Leaders Deny Responsibility

EA2211154588 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] The Armed Forces' official spokesman issued the following statement on the denial by the rebel leadership that it committed the incident against the defense minister's plane, the general commander, and the accompanying delegation. Here is the text of the statement:

There is not a single loophole, however small, in the reality of the military situation in Wau through which the outlaw command can pass its naive denial to the people. The rebel command committed the incident, was ready to face its consequences, and this is what should be considered.

Garang Reportedly Ordered Attack

EA2211154688 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] An informed security source in Bahr al-Ghazal region said that the Armed Forces had succeeded in arresting a group of outlaws in the area who had taken part in firing a missile at the Armed Forces commander's plane recently.

The source disclosed that the group confessed that immediately after ending his talks with the patron of the Democratic Unionist Party, Garang issued orders to Janus Battalion command to hit aircraft approaching the area.

Belgrade TANJUG on Riots in Khartoum 22 Nov

LD2211173788 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1542 GMT 22 Nov 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Cairo, Nov 22 (TANJUG)—Several people were killed and many more injured in riots which broke out in Khartoum this morning, reports Radio Omdurman. The disorders were provoked by Islamic fundamentalists, who first gathered in the centre of Khartoum, shouting "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) and carrying banners against the agreement on ceasefire in southern Sudan which should end the five-year civil war.

Radio Omdurman did not name the organizers of today's bloody riots in Khartoum, but it is evident that the militant National Islamic Front is behind them. After the initial gathering in central Khartoum, the protesters went to the suburbs where immigrants from the south, mainly Christians or Animists, live, and clashed with them.

The house of a minister, who comes from southern Sudan, was also attacked. The police used batons and tear gas to force apart the angry opponents and introduce peace again, but with little success. According to some reports, the police also used firearms, resulting in killed, wounded and injured people on all three sides.

A stipulation of the accord on ceasefire in southern Sudan, recently signed in Addis Ababa by Commander of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Colonel John Garang and a Sudanese Government representative, provides for the abolition of the Sharia Law, introduced by deposed president Ja'far Numayri five years ago, which started the civil war in the south.

The National Islamic Front, whose name also covers the very strong and influential organisation of Muslim Brotherhood, which is also a partner in the coalition government, immediately started opposing this and announced an action, which soon followed.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

GCC Defense Ministers Resume 7th Session 23 Nov

LD2311100288 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0826 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Nov (SPA)—Their highnesses and excellencies the GCC defense minister have resumed their seventh meeting. The meeting began at the GCC Secretariat yesterday evening, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general.

Conclude Meeting

LD2311130988 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1034 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 23 Nov (SPA)—This afternoon at the GCC Permanent Secretariat Headquarters in Riyadh, their highnesses and excellencies the GCC defense ministers ended their seventh meeting chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector-general. [passage omitted]

His Excellency GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah read the press release issued following the meeting:

Their highnesses and excellencies the GCC defense ministers held their seventh meeting at the GCC Permanent Secretariat in Riyadh 22-23 November 1988, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in the presence of their highnesses and excellencies the GCC defense ministers.

The ministers reviewed the GCC's steps in implementing the decisions of their majesties and highnesses on defense, the decisions of the defense ministers, and the attainment of strategic military goals based on the principle of the jointly conceived idea of self-reliance.

The ministers expressed satisfaction with the GCC's achievements and reaffirmed their determination to pursue the course of cooperation and to commit themselves to such cooperation in order to face the dangers with a united stance.

The ministers also decided to take the necesary measures to bolster cooperation among the GCC armed forces and to increase coordination, exchange expertise, and intensify joint exercises.

They also reviewed the recommendations of their excellencies the chiefs of staff and adopted all of them as an expression of their determination to remove all obstacles and consolidate cooperation in all spheres.

The ministers expressed pride in the great effort made by the specialized technical commitees and reaffirmed their desire that such committees continue their work according to the concept drawn up by the military committee.

They also expresed appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and their thanks to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general.

The ministers extended sincere thanks and appreciation to his royal highness for his welcome and the excellent organization which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had taken to insure the success of the meeting.

Issued in Riyadh, 23 November 1988

Kuwait

Foreign Minister To Visit UN To Back 'Arafat

LD2311043188 Kuwait KUNA in English 1802 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 22 (KUNA)—Kuwait's deputy premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad will fly to New York when a date is fixed for a planned visit to the United Nations by Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, (?KUNA learned) Tuesday.

Iraq earlier this month urged Arab foreign ministers to attend a United Nations General Assembly debate on the Palestinian question scheduled to open late this month, to lend collective support for the pan-Arab camp.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat plans to address the U.N. General Assembly on November 29, the date which the world body has marked as an international day for solidarity with the Palestinian people since 'Arafat addresed the United Nations for the first and only time in 1974.

A controversy over whether the U.S. would grant 'Arafat a visa to visit the United Nations in New York came to an end this evening as the PLO leader indicated to reporters in Cairo that the visa had been obtained.

Shaykh Sabah earlier in the day had received here deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), or parliament in exile, Salim al-Za'nun and PLO Kuwait representative 'Awni Battash who briefed the Kuwaiti officials on the outcome of the PNC session held in Algiers last week.

The Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister said afterward he had discussed with the two Palestinian officials 'Arafat's forthcoming visit to the U.N. General Assembly.

Shaykh Sabah added that he hoped Arab foreign ministers would be present when 'Arafat visits the United Nations to vehemently support the Palestinian leader at the world body.

Kuwait was one of the first Arab countries to recognize the independent Palestinian state which was proclaimed by the Palestine National Council last Tuesday.

"We have conveyed our blessings to the Palestinian brethren for the creation of a state and the historic (PNC) resolutions that they had reached...and congratulated them for instituting the independent Palestinian state," Shaykh Sabah added in his statement.

Defense Minister Meets U.S. Delegation

LD1911211888 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir met with a visiting U.S. military delegation, led by Rear Admiral Anthony I. Ellis, today.

According to KUNA, during the meeting—attended by the U.S. ambassador in Kuwait—the two countries discussed issues of mutual importance.

Editorial Urges Recognition of Palestinian State

JN1811174388 Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 16 Nov 88 pp 1, 23

[Editorial: "The State and the Palestinian Variable"]

[Text] Congratulations to our Palestinian brothers on their new state, with its capital, Jerusalem.

The proclamation of the birth of the new state represents progress or a coup in basic standards and will lead to the emergence of new factors and forces that know how to deal with the realities of international politics and their games and maneuvers.

The proclamation of the state came about because the Palestinian people have the initiative and readiness to achieve a qualitative change in political action and struggle—based on the strength of the stone and steadfastness. Hence, this people managed to present to the world a model of distinguished sacrifice under the canopy of a state with enough heritage, civilization, and present ambition to make it worthy of confidence and recognition.

All Arab states are now required to rally around the new state and protect and care for it as a symbol of the Palestinian struggle, freedom, and dignity.

We will not go into a deep analysis. Today, the new Palestinian state represents the greatest challenge facing Israel and the superpowers supporting it. The Palestinian cause began to impose itself as a living concern in one of the world's most strategic and vital regions.

Therefore, we, as Arabs, must understand this reality and provide the necessary preparation and political, economic, and even military mobilization. But, if differences continue, interpretations multiply, and resources scatter, the danger will not be posed only to one state or regime. The danger will be comprehensive and its harm will be general.

Therefore, we consider the proclamation of the new state an invitation to unite and a time to pause and reflect. The wars of the past 40 years have provided nothing positive for a fatal issue such as the Palestinian cause.

This was not due to military weakness but to continued differences and dispersal of resources. It is high time for us to make the new Palestinian option the threshold for a new phase of joint Arab action with greater momentum and sacrifice.

We hope that in its new era, the Palestinian cause will constitute a factor of direct influence in the intricate Arab map, because we cannot face the current of U.S. bias toward Israel without an Arab alternative capable of confronting that current.

We believe that the proclamation of the new state deserves the convening of an Arab summit to give the uprising material and moral momentum. It will also give world public opinion a better understanding of all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict in its vocabulary, repercussions, and effects.

We must not be late in recognizing the new state because we must be the first to take the initiative to do so as a pan-Arab duty toward a fatal issue and as a political and security need.

Those who fear that recognition will affect their relations with those to whom they are subordinate and loyal are urged to drop all these sensitivities, rise above narrow considerations, and open a new page of relations and channels of dialogue distinguished by positivism and objectivity.

Israel will not hesitate to abort the Palestinian step and reduce its effect. Meanwhile, pan-Arab duty calls on us to move outside this large dose of negativity and confirm the importance of this major change.

We have always awaited international change, and this (Palestinian change) must implement its effects and extend its influence on the Arab level first, and on the international level thereafter.

This is the least we can do for the new Palestinian state, which represents the first step on a long road.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Speaks on Foreign Policy, PNC

JN1911100088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Muscat, 18 Nov (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman delivered a speech today on the 18th anniversary of the Sultanate national day. Following is the text of the speech: [passage omitted]

O citizens: While continuing development efforts and programs in various civil sectors, we work to modernize our Armed Forces from our belief in their glorious role at all times.

It pleases us today to greet all officers and soldiers in our valiant forces in all their units and formations as an expression of the pride we harbor in them and our admiration of the prominent standard they have reached in terms of efficiency, growing readiness, and sincerity to their sacred duty to safeguard the security of our dear country and participate in achieving progress and prosperity.

We also greet the various security organs which—through honest efforts—are prominent examples of self-sacrifice in the service of the homeland and society.

O citizens: We always want to carry out our complete role in the international arena according to the policy we have been following positively and clearly since the beginning.

This policy is based on a firm belief in the principles of peaceful coexistence among peoples, good neighborly relations among neighborly countries, noninterference in others' internal affairs, and mutual respect of rights to national sovereignty.

We extend a hand of friendship and cooperation to all countries that agree with us on these principles. We also work within this framework to strengthen developing relations with all regional states due to our belief in the importance of cooperation among these states to serve the basic interests of all their peoples.

We also work with our brothers and friends in the world to develop our relations in order to meet the objectives of common cooperation for the wellbeing of our peoples and the international community.

We also devote our potential to honestly participate in reinforcing opportunities of peace and security on all regional and international levels.

As we praise the brave and wise step made by the leaders of Iraq and Iran to end the war and embark on direct dialogue to settle the conflict peacefully we would like to highlight the prominent UN role in reconciling the two parties. We reiterate our strong support for this role.

The world has witnessed positive developments this year because of the clear progress achieved through international efforts in terms of tackling many regional problems in various parts of the world.

The positive developments are also represented by the detente in relations between the East and West and the further rapprochement between the two superpowers. We hope that these encouraging developments will contribute to creating a new world atmosphere that will produce suitable opportunities to tackle all problems and chronic international issues, particularly the Middle East issue.

Within this framework, we call on the international community and all world forces to present further support for the efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East to pave the road for a serious move to reach a just and lasting peaceful settlement aimed at ending the difficult plight of the Palestinian people.

We praise the positive results reached by the PNC during its Algiers session. These results provide a new opportunity to find a solution that will repatriate to this struggling people their legitimate rights and guarantee all concerned parties' security and peace. As the Lebanese crisis has become more complicated and is pressing the Lebanese people, we reiterate our complete conviction that resolving this crisis should stem from the will of the Lebanese themselves.

We appeal to all Lebanese forces and factions to work without hesitation to emerge from the current impasse and to reach an agreement on a formula for dialogue to find a solution that safeguards Lebanon's unity, independence, and complete sovereignty over its territory.

We also appeal to the Arab countries to help—through the Arab League—in embarking on a dialogue to tackle the Lebanese crisis apart from foreign interference.

On the level of fraternal cooperation among Arab countries, we greet the steps taken by our brothers, the leaders of the Arab Maghreb states, to coordinate regional cooperation among these states.

We voice our full support for these efforts and for every effort to reinforce fraternity among brothers and to entrench solidarity in the Arab nation for the wellbeing of its people today and in the future.

O citizens: The world economic situation has imposed heavy burdens and increasing pressures on developing countries. These burdens and pressures are unique in terms of their seriousness and negative repercussions on the growth rate in these countries.

This reiterates the need for the international community to tackle this deterioration in the world economy to regain the balance on fair and stable bases to guarantee the interests of developing countries.

We also underline the importance of cooperation among OPEC countries to stabilize the world oil market. We hope that this cooperation will be more effective than before because of its importance to the world economy and its importance to both producers and consumers.

O citizens: The government's effective efforts have positive effects on our adaptation to the world economic and oil situation. They guarantee the continuation of the basic and necessary projects in the various parts of the country.

As we express appreciation for these efforts and for the response and cooperation demonstrated by the Consultative Council and the people, we call on all of you to demonstrate further solidarity and unity of efforts to promote the level of performance in all sectors, particularly in the productive sectors.

We also call on you to look at our new year with belief, confidence, and determination to remove the obstacles and continue progress to achieve the progress we hope for our dear country in all fields.

We pray to God to grant us success for our wellbeing and righteousness. Success comes from God.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Foreign Affairs Minister on Cooperation, PLO

JN2211110088 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 20 Nov 88 p 11

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah by Yusuf 'Alawinah in Muscat—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Alawinah] Are you optimistic about the progress of Iraqi-Iranian peace talks? Is there a threat of the possibe return of both countries to the battlefield?

['Abdallah] We are optimistic and there is progress in the negotiations. Although small, this progress will create optimism in the region and will help remove obstacles blocking the way to a better completion of the negotiations.

As for the threats, they undoubtedly exist. However, they do not reach the level of fateful threats that may force both countries into a new state of war. I think one has to draw this conclusion from the fact that both countries seek a peace agreement and seek to respond to the requirements of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. [passage omitted]

['Alawinah] Do you perceive a concept for security and cooperation among all the Gulf littoral states in order to strengthen security and stability and guarantee freedom of navigation in the Gulf?

['Abdallah] We do not have a specific concept, and, in this regard, we work within the framework of the GCC. We also feel that the best way to achieve the constants of security and stability is to open the way for economic and social cooperation among the eight Gulf littoral states and lay down the basic foundations for this cooperation—particularly in the trade field.

These eight states (the GCC countries, Iraq, and Iran) are states with one economic nature. They form an economic region that can constitute an integrated economic axis for the benefit of their people.

This will have a more comprehensive influence on the future of political relations among these states.

['Alawinah] How do you view the end of the foreign fleets' presence in the Gulf?

['Abdallah] The naval powers in the Gulf have an old historic background. We cannot view the current presence through political developments, because they did not originate from contemporary political conditions. Their presence is connected to economic interests in light of the economic situation that distinguishes the Gulf from other regions.

In a number of other regions, the presence is based on purely political bases, but, in the Gulf, the matter is connected to trade and economic issues. Therefore, we do not view this presence as a major issue. We always view it within the economic and trade framework. It is an issue that can be dealt with easily.

I also believe that the decision here is up to the states that have these naval powers because they operate in international waters, not in the territorial waters of the Gulf states.

Generally, whenever we improve coexistence in the region, this presence will reduce. The interests of the states in the region call upon us to understand the realities of sustaining and expanding economic cooperation so that it occupies larger areas.

This, in itself, will guarantee a reduction, or limitation, of the non-Gulf naval presence in the region. [passage omitted]

['Alawinah] We would like to ask about the nature of relations between the PLO and Oman?

['Abdallah] The contacts and visits have not ceased. The question is not that of an office—an office that provides support and backing, and not complications and troubles. Moreover, the presence or absence of an office will not affect the Sultanate's support for the Palestinian cause and march.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus is always eager to bring up the topic of Palestinian rights in any talks, in which the Sultanate takes part. More than once, and on more than one such occasion, his majesty has pointed out that the uprising in the occupied territories is the Palestinian people's greatest achievement.

The Sultanate has always stressed the need to pay attention to the Arab citizens under the yoke of occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. We were convinced that, given the right support and backing, their role can be significant.

This was proved by the uprising through its tangible and intangible impact on the states and societies which are indifferent toward the Palestinian people's rights.

['Alawinah] Is the Sultanate mediating between Saudi Arabia and Iran over the restoration of diplomatic relations between them?

['Abdallah] These contacts exist. You have certainly been following the exchanged initiatives made through the press statements issued by Saudi Arabia and Iran which show a desire by both countries to transcend the problem and restore matters between them to normal.

['Alawinah] Is the Sultanate continuing mediation over the Egyptian prisoners in Iran?

['Abdallah] At first, we thought that a number of prisoners, and a number of fishermen detained by Iran, had in fact been released. Anyhow, from the practical viewpoint, the POW issue is a major and complicated issue. But it is one of the war's consequences.

There is an agreement in principle to release them and there are no differences in this regard. However, the difference is in the timing. Should it be made now or later as part of the process of the exchange of POW's between Iraq and Iran? It is only a technicality. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Meets Austrian Counterpart

JN1811111088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] Muscat, 18 Nov (WAKH)—Al-Mu'tasim ibn Hamud Al Bu Sa'idi, Omani minister of state for defense affairs, this morning met with Austrian National Defense Minister Dr Robert Lichal currently visiting the Sultanate. They reviewed issues of mutual interest and discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation.

PDRY

Soviet Official Inspects Oil Field Project

EA1911180088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] Brother Rashid al-Kaf, deputy minister of energy and minerals, and Comrade Salmanov, Soviet first deputy minister of the petroleum industry, this morning inspected oil field sites in Shabwah Governorate to acquaint themselves with the progress of the project to develop rich oil fields and the difficulties encountered.

Brother Rashid al-Kaf and Comrade Salmanov highly rated the achievements and efforts made by the Yemeni workers and their Soviet comrades to implement the project—a prominent landmark of the militant friendship linking the YSP and CPSU and the peoples of the two friendly countries.

At the end of the visit, Brother al-Kaf and Comrade Salmanov issued a number of important directives on solving various technical and administrative problems affecting the project.

USSR Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 21 Nov

EA2211100588 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] A Soviet Government delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Comrade Boris Yevdokimovich Shcherbina, arrived in Aden this evening for a visit of several days.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Shcherbina said he will thoroughly familiarize himself with the development of the petroleum industry in Democratic Yemen, important for the national economy in particular and the future of Democratic Yemen in general.

He said: We in the USSR are proud of our friendship with the people and the government of Democratic Yemen. Discussions during his visit, he said, will address all the tasks facing the petroleum industries in Yemen.

He said the proving of oil fields in Democratic Yemen was completed last year, and the joint program of Yemeni and Soviet comrades will start this year. It is expected that 70,000 tonnes of petroleum will be extracted this year and 200,000 tonnes next year.

By 1990, production will reach 1.2 million tonnes, he said.

The comrade Soviet deputy prime minister hailed the growing cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He was met at the airport by Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, Central Committee member, deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals; a number of Central Committee members; ministers and deputy ministers of planning and energy and minerals; and the Soviet ambassador to Aden.

Al-Bid Meets Visitng YAR Oil Minister 18 Nov

EA2011151288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Salim Al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, has stressed that what had been agreed upon between the leadership of the two parts of the homeland regarding the exploitation of petroleum in the joint area should be implemented.

This was said during his meeting this afternoon with Brother Ahmad 'Ali Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources in the northern part of the homeland, who conveyed to him the greetings of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

He briefed Brother al-Bid on the results of his meeting at the ministry of energy and minerals in the southern part of the homeland as well as on the efforts and the appropriate measures taken to exploit the petroleum of the joint area. Its accomplishment is considered an important step on the road to restoring Yemeni unity. [passage omitted]

YSP Secretariat Holds Routine Meeting 16 Nov

EA1711101088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Text] The YSP Central Committee Secretariat held its regular meeting this morning, chaired by Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

The Secretariat discussed a report on the permanence [as heard] and indebtedness of state establishments. It tasked the Council of Ministers with solving existing problems in this sphere by paying attention to the negative effect of servicing, and by laying down appropriate statutes and regulations to guarantee regulation of the process of exchange [as heard] between the establishments and prevention of accumulative indebtedness.

The Secretariat heard a report about a project for developing Aden port. The Secretariat stressed the importance of undertaking and completing the project according to a fixed timetable and the need to overcome existing difficulties.

It entrusted the Ministry of Communications with drafting a plan for preparing and training cadres in this field.

Decree Appoints New Ambassador to Egypt

EA2011032088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 88

[Summary] In the name of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, the chairman of its Presidium, Haydar Abu al-'Attas, issued a decree today appointing Muhammed Mahmud al-Bayti as PDRY ambassador to Egypt.

Justice Minister Sends Reply Letter to President

JN2311092588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 88

["Text" of a reply letter from Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali to President Saddam Husayn on 22 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

To leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, the great man of justice, from Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

I received your gracious letter dated 21 November 1988, corresponding to 11 Rabi' al-Thani 1409 Hegira. I am not keeping it a secret, Mr President, that I read it amid tears which I could not check and sobs I could not restrain. The feelings of fatherhood and affection did their work by tearing me apart in their struggle with the feelings of faith in God, in justice, and in sacrificing for its sake.

They were unique moments in my life, during which I felt I was witnessing an immortal historic stand that will be recorded by history as eternal evidence of the justice by which our nation was characterized among nations and with a brilliance that dazzles the eyes and lightens the road of future generations.

Fathers and sons will be proud that their nation continues to give birth to one great man after another so that glory will continue and strong, clean hands will continue to raise the most sublime banners of justice, equality, freedom, security, and peace.

It was a letter abounding with justice and faith in God and in what is right. It was also a sacrifice of man's dearest possession for the sake of these ideals and principles and for the people.

You have triumphed over your own self and over human weakness in the same way as you have triumphed over the vicious invaders in the battlefields. I know that such a man as you cannot be discredited by the whole world if it decides to fight him in the same manner as he cannot be descredited by a son's mistake or a brother's stumble.

By God, I wished I could have carried for you the pain I felt through your immortal letter and protected you with myself, money, and son against any evil, God forbid, that may face you because you are the man of a nation, a symbol of glory, and a foundation on which the entity of a people was based Mr President, allow me say that I am afraid you may commit an outrage against your own son as a result of your deep sense of justice and your firm determination to establish justice among people. My excuse for saying this is that during my long experience in the judiciary and with judges, I have known many cases in which judges did an injustice to themselves, families, and properties as a result of their delicate sense of justice and because they feared that their justness might be doubted.

Therefore, I am dutybound, as a minister and man of justice, to fervently hope you will be reassured that justice will prevail, that the judiciary, which you have preserved and protected, will always be what you expect it to be, will realize your ambition, and will not fear any blame except from God as far as justice is concerned, and that thousands of cases such as our son 'Udayy's were settled by the courts according to right, law, and the essence of justice which takes into consideration the circumstances and surrounding conditions.

Mr President, I beseech God Almighty day and night, in my prayers and in my solitude, to help you in this difficult test and to guide you and us—we the men of justice—to what He loves for every faithful, righteous, and honest man, and make our sons the source of satisfaction, protect them from mistakes, guide them to the righteous path, and support them.

Sir, do not grieve because it is human to err. Men like you remain the source of hope and he who is good will always be good. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Akram 'Abd al-'Qadir 'Ali, minister of justice, 22 November 1988

Issues Investigation Decree

JN2311093588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Nov 88

["Text" of a decree issued by Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali forming a commission to investigate the case of President Saddam Husayn's son] [Text] With respect to the contents of the letter of Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, the president of the republic, the great leader, and the first man of justice, which was addressed to us on 21 November 1988 corresponding to 11 Rabi' al-Thani 1409 Hegira, his excellency has asked me to conduct the proper investigation into what was attributed to his son 'Udayy Saddam Husayn thereby causing the death of Kamil Hanna Jajju on Tuesday night, 18 October 1988, on Al-A'ras Island near Al-Jadiriyah Bridge, south of the presidential palace, and to administer justice according to its pillars and conceptions concerning a matter related to his son exactly as we adminster justice concerning matters related to others.

This is because the justice that Saddam Husayn wants to administer in Iraq within the limits of his constitutional responsibility exempts no case or person, including the offspring of Saddam Husayn himself, whether justice or injustice is done to them, and because he wants to measure up to the good opinion of God and to abide by and endure God's ruling.

Based on this and at a time when I admit that I have never heard nor read, either now or in the past, about the justice of great and unique men throughout history and their faith regarding the establishment of justice among people, except what was said about 'Umar ibn al-Khattab [second Islamic caliph], may God bless him, when he applied the Islamic penal code to his son, and what was said by other very few great men, I have no choice but to agree with the president, may God preserve him, who said:

Perhaps, God wanted to test our patience in such a matter as well as our endurance and justice—whether we will administer justice according to its pillars and conceptions concerning a matter related to our children. God wanted this to occur, and nothing can prevent the will of God the Almighty. From God we come and to Him we return.

Based on Article 35 F3 of the amended Judicial Law No 160 of 1979, I have decreed the formation of a commission to investigate what was attributed to 'Udayy Saddam Husayn in the aforementioned letter dated 21 November 1988, as follows:

1. Judge 'Abd al-Wahhab Husayn al-Duri, vice president of the Court of Cassation, president.

2. Judge 'Abd al-Sattar Muhammad al-Bazargan, member of the Court of Cassation, member.

3. Judge Akram Ahmad al-Khaddar, president of the Baghdad Appeal Court, member.

The task of prosecution shall be assigned to Prosecutor General Dr Dari Khalil Mahmud. The commission shall begin its tasks as of the issuance of this order on 21 November 1988.

[Signed] Akram 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali, minister of justice

Saddam Husayn Addresses Awards Ceremony 22 Nov
JN2211181788 Baghdad INA in English 1745 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 22, INA—President Saddam Husayn said today that "We hope that peace brought about by the ceasefire would become consolidated, firm and durable when agreement is reached on peace by all its means and on all issues pertaining to the relationship between Iraq and Iran".

The president was speaking at a ceremony during which a new group of combatants were awarded with bravery medals.

Addressing the combatants, the president noted that the heroism demonstrated by our people and Armed Forces was of great value and historical meaning.

President Husayn urged that the logistical, technical and humantanian lessons emerged out of the war should be absorbed, now that the war had ceased.

The medals-awarding ceremony was attended by Gen. 'Adnan Khayrallah deputy commander-in-chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and minister of defence, Minister of Culture and Information Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the head of the Presidency Diwan Mr. Ahmad Husayn, Minister of Sate for Military Affairs Gen. 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal and members of the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

President Hails Lebanon's 'Awn on National Day
JN2211125288 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 22, INA—President Saddam Husayn congratulated Mr. Michel 'Awn, Lebanese prime minister on occasion of Lebanon's national day.

President Husayn's telegram, wished Lebanon peace, security and national unity in the shade of its free will away from any foreign interference. President Husayn wished Premier 'Awn health and happiness and the existing brotherly relations between Iraq and Lebanon continued development in service of the two peoples interests.

'Radical Changes' Expected in Syrian Regime
NC2211164288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] London, 22 Nov (INA)—Political observers expect radical changes to take place in the makeup of the ruling regime in Syria.

AL-DUSTUR magazine, in its weekly edition published here, cites these observers as saying that the removal of Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas is expected.

Agreement on Construction Signed With Egypt
JN2111182488 Baghdad INA in English 1356 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 21, (INA)—The Iraqi-Egyptian sub-committee have laid down preliminary rules and bases to establish a specialized joint firm for construction and development. The rules and bases are to be presented to the Iraqi-Egyptian joint higher committee during its next meeting.

The Iraqi Ministry of Housing and Construction undersecretary told INA today that the firm would be of a morally and legally competent character, with indepenent financial and administrative status enabling it to directly discharge its functions.

An agreement signed between the two countries for this end provides that the firm's board of directors determines its financial, administrative and organizational rules without being restricted by any of the two countries' laws or rules.

In addition to that, the firm enjoys privileges that would enable it to carry out its role effectively and flexibly.

The initial agreement defined the goal of the 40 million dollar capital firm, to be paid fifty-fifty by Iraq and Egypt, as implementing construction projects in Iraq, Egypt and abroad.

The agreement stipulates for putting the formula of establishing the firm to the Iraqi-Egyptian joint higher committee for ratification. And once the agreement is ratified, the two sides would start work to obtain the approval of legislative and executive bodies in Iraq and Egypt.

According to the approval, a resolution announcing the establishment of the firm is to be issued.

Oil Minister Meets With Austrian Economy Minister

JN2211124588 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 22, INA—Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Iraqi oil minister, head of the Iraqi side to meetings of the Iraqi-Austrian joint committee, today met here Mr. Robert Graf Austrian economy minister, head of the Austrian side to the committee.

During the meeting, topics leading to expanding the volume of trade exhange and developing economic relations between the two countries were discussed.

It is to be noted that the Iraqi oil minister is currently in Vienna to attend meetings of the ordinary ministerial conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which started in the Austrian Capital yesterday.

UN Observers Group Commander Leaves Baghdad

JN2311112488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today.

Gen Slavko Jovic is making shuttle tours and trips between Baghdad and Tehran to acquaint himself with the work of the UN observers in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

He was seen off by the representative of the coordination committee with the UN observers and the UN representative in Baghdad.

Vice President Ma'ruf Leaves for FRG Visit 20 Nov

JN2011092888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Nov (INA)—Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf left Baghdad for Bonn this morning heading an official Iraqi delegation on a visit of several days to the FRG.

During his visit, the vice president will hold talks with the FRG officials on bilateral relations, ways to enhance them, and regional and international issues of common interest.

The official delegation accompanying the vice president comprises the deputy speaker of the National Assembly, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, and a number of officials at the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Official Leaves for Celebrations in Chad 20 Nov

JN2011123888 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 20, INA—Mr. Hasan 'Ali, member of the Regional Leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party today left here for Chad leading a party delegation to attend festivals there marking yesterday's conclusion of a reconciliation agreement between the Chadian Government and the National Front.

The ABSP delegation will also attend the 3rd conference of the National Union Party for Independence and the Chadian Popular revolution.

On board the same airliner, the delegation of the Chadian Government and National Front also left.

The reconciliation agreement signed in Baghdad yesterday by the Chadian Minister of interior and chairman of the Chadian National front provided for an immediate ceasefire between the two sides culminating their negotiations held under the auspices of Dr. 'Abd al-Majid al-Rafi'i, member of the ABSP national leadership.

RCC Vice Chairman Departs for Amman 23 Nov

JN2311094888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Nov (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left for Amman today on an official visit of several days to Jordan. [passage omitted]

Correction to President's Letter on Son's Attack

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "President Writes Justice Minister on Son's Attack," published in the 22 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 19, column one, paragraph three, and column two, paragraphs eleven and twelve: The name "Munir Hanna Jirjis" should be "Munir Hanna Jajju." [correcting surname]

Air Force Raids 'Terrorist Targets' in Lebanon

TA2211141788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets in southern Lebanon this afternoon. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a command post and a base from which terrorists departed were attacked in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah area, south of Sidon.

All aircraft returned safely. The pilots reported good hits on the targets.

Bar-Lev Says Alignment To Go Into Opposition

TA2211184288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Labor Minister Hayim Bar-Lev says the Alignment will go into opposition. This follows a decision by party leaders Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin earlier today to stop the talks with the Likud aimed at forming a broadly-based government. Shlomo Berger reports:

[Begin recording] Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev, a member of Labor's negotiating team with the Likud, says the coalition talks were halted because the Alignment's demands were not met. [passage omitted]

Other Labor Knesset members have also said opposition is now the only course for the party. The main points of contention between Labor and Likud concern the appointment of portfolios and parity in the 10-man Inner Cabinet. Labor demanded two of the three major ministries, Defense, Finance and Foreign Affairs, but the Likud offered Labor only one of the three.

The Likud also rejected parity in the Inner Cabinet, saying this would enable the Alignment to neutralize its initiatives.

Responding to the Labor decision, the Prime Minister's Office said negotiations to form a government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir are continuing. The Likud believes that it can form a narrow coalition by next week as most obstacles to such a government have now been removed.

Still, the estimation in the Likud is that despite Labor's declaration, a broadly-based government is not out of the question. Some circles in Labor believe that the Likud will continue to encounter obstacles from the religious parties, and will eventually soften its position toward the Alignment.

Party leader Shim'on Peres is holding consultations at his home tonight with Labor ministers and Knesset members. [end recording]

Alignment Leaves Door Open to Renewed Contacts

TA2311060488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Alignment ministers last night approved the halt in talks with the Likud, but our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that at the end of a lengthy meeting, most ministers supported the view that if the Likud softens its positions and searches for a way to renew the contacts, the door will not be shut in their faces.

During the meeting, the defense minister attacked the version broadcast on the Voice of Israel yesterday. Mr Rabin said the Alignment decision—as agreed to by himself and Shim'on Peres—did not refer to terminating the contacts but to calling a halt.

Shim'on Peres attacked the reports that said the only thing preventing the Alignment from joining the government is a portfolio for him. That is absolute rubbish, Peres said. The Labor Party Bureau will convene tomorrow and will probably approve the decision on the Alignment going into opposition.

Majority Favors Likud-Alignment Government

TA2311114688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Nov 88 p 3

[Report by Lily Galili]

[Text] Almost 60 percent of the public favors the establishment of a government with the participation of the Likud and the Alignment alone to change the electoral system and arrange for new elections as soon as possible.

This is the result of a public opinion poll conducted by telephone by the Teleseqer Institute, under the management of Dori Shadmon. The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 506 persons over the age of 18.

Most of the support for the Likud-Alignment government comes from the Alignment and the left wing.

Asked what government they prefer, 80 percent of those who voted for the Alignment and the left said that they would prefer a government made up of only the Likud and the Alignment. Some 48 percent of those who voted for the right favor such a government.

On the other hand, asked what the Alignment should do now (faced with participation in a broad-based government), 46 percent of those who supported the Alignment and the left wing favored sitting in the opposition, while 44 percent said they favor joining a broad-based government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. The rest had no stand on the issue.

'Law of Return' Amendment Submitted to Knesset
TA2211153288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] A motion for amending the Law of Return according to which a Jew would be defined only as somebody who has been converted according to Halakah has been submitted to the Knesset.

Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitch reports that the motion was submitted by Avraham Verdiger of Agudat Yisra'el, Yitzhaq Levi of the National Religious Party, Shlomo Dayan of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and Mikha'el Eytan of the Likud. A date for the debate has not been fixed because the 12th Knesset still does not have a presidium.

At noon, Prime Minister Shamir rejected a request by a delegation of U.S. Jewish leaders to remove the amendment from the Knesset's agenda, but said there would be consultations between the Cabinet and the Jewish Agency on the matter.

Shamir To Form Team To Discuss 'Who Is a Jew' Law
TA2211181688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the Who Is a Jew law has not been properly understood and that it affects only a small number of people.

Prime Minister Shamir rejected a demand by U.S. Jewish leaders to refrain from changing the law. Shamir agreed, however, to form a special team to discuss the matter.

In his meeting with the Jewish leaders, Shim'on Peres reiterated his stand against amending the Law of Return.

Shamir Resists Right-Wing Pressure on Tabah
TA2311082588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet today discussed Israel's reaction to Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state declared in Algeria. Close aides to the prime minister said Shamir rejected proposals by the right wing to respond to the Egyptian recognition of that country by not implementing the arbitrators' ruling on the Tabah controversy.

Efforts Continue To Block U.S. Visa for 'Arafat
TA2311115788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Israel is continuing its efforts to try and block any attempt to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States. Efforts are also being made to foil moves at the United Nations to grant the PLO full observer status.

The Voice of Israel political affairs reporter says the Cabinet [as heard] in Jerusalem was briefed this morning on Israel's position regarding the PLO and the 'Arafat visit to the United Nations in New York. Jerusalem also says it has no confirmation of 'Arafat's claim he has already received a visa.

In a report to the Cabinet [as heard] today, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres dealt with international reactions to the PNC declarations in Algiers, in particular Egypt's recognition of a Palestinian state.

'Arafat Attempts To Arrange Meeting with Hamas
TA2311090488 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 23 Nov 88 p 1

["Exclusive" DEPTH News Service report by Giyora Shamis]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Yasir 'Arafat, now in Cairo, secretly met the leaders of the Egyptian Moslem Brotherhood and urged them to broker an agreement between the PLO and Hamas, the PLO's fundamentalist rivals in the West Bank and Gaza.

This meeting was the real aim of 'Arafat's visit—not the ostensible one of thanking President Husni Mubarak for supporting last week's PNC declaration of Palestinian statehood.

Hamas opposed the PNC declaration as a secular document that failed to envisage a Moslem theocracy. 'Arafat wants to meet the Hamas leaders in Kuwait soon, including Khalil al-Quqa.

By late last night Al-Quqa, whom Israel expelled from Gaza last summer, remained unpersuaded. [passage omitted]

Husayn Asked To Clarify Stand on Palestinians
TA2311090688 Tel Aviv THE NATION in English 23 Nov 88 p 1

[DEPTH News Service report by Diane Shalem]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Government leaders initiated secret contacts with Jordan's King Husayn over the weekend after he recognized the independent Palestinian state, diplomatic sources in Amman and Jerusalem said yesterday.

Officials at the prime minister's office and the Foreign Ministry are seeking clarification of Husayn's new stand toward the Palestinians. Diplomatic sources in Washington said the Reagan administration, which had urged Husayn to delay recognition, also asked the king for an explanation.

Husayn, who reportedly responded coolly, said he will take part in Middle East peace negotiations only if Jordan's role is confirmed at an Arab summit.

Informed sources interpreted the king's response as a negative turn in his position toward peace talks. Husayn's new reliance on Arab world approval appears to block the only two paths to peace talks: an international conference or direct negotiations. [passage omitted]

Ghali: Recognition of State Will Aid Peace

TA2111142788 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

[Report on interview with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by Arab affairs correspondent Dan Avidan on 20 November; place not given]

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, told DAVAR yesterday evening that Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state declared by the PNC in no way contradicts the Egyptian commitment to the Camp David accords.

He made clear that Egypt has always believed that the Camp David framework agreements were designed not only to provide autonomy for the Palestinians, but also to give them a state of their own with the cooperation of the residents of the territories while establishing the final status of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Dr Ghali said that Egypt had already recognized the establishment of a Palestinian state on 15 November, but in various statements made by official spokesmen has preferred to stress its support for most of the PNC resolutions.

On the other hand, Ghali said, when it became apparent that the Egyptian position was not clearly understood, and that there were some who believed that Egypt had not recognized the Palestinian state, merely supporting the declaration of that state, the need arose to clarify officially the fact of the recognition, as was done yesterday by an authorized Egyptian spokesman.

Ghali added that the Egyptian recognition of the Palestinian state should not affect Egypt's ability in the future to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians or other Arab countries for the purpose of advancing peace.

"On the contrary, we are now in a position that would make it easier for us to go between Israel and the Palestinians, because we formally recognize both these states that need to reach an understanding," Ghali said.

He rejected the notion that President Mubarak yesterday decided officially to recognize the Palestinian state because he feared that if he fails to do so, he would be subject to pressure from opposition elements.

Dr Ghali further noted that according to Egypt's point of view, the PLO had recognized the state of Israel in the 19th PNC convention and that it is now Israel's turn to recognize the existence of the Palestinians, namely the PLO.

He added that the Egyptian recognition of the Palestinian state and the talks President Mubarak is scheduled to hold with 'Arafat today or tomorrow in Cairo are meant to help advance the peace process.

Jerusalem Interviews Khalil on Resolutions

JN2211164288 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Telephone interview with former Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil by Yitzhaq Halevi, Middle East affairs editor on 22 November; place not given—recorded]

[Halevi] Dr Mustafa Khalil, good afternoon.

[khalil] Good afternoon.

[Halevi] You were one of those who made major contributions to the signing of the Camp David accords. How do you view the fate of these accords after the recent PNC resolutions and Egypt's recognition of these resolutions?

[Khalil] There is a correction that must be made here. [laughs] I was not a party to the Camp David accords. The Camp David accords were concluded with the involvement of other persons. However, afterward, I assumed the responsibility for the negotiations pertaining to...

[Halevi, interrupting] You were the prime minister.

[Khalil, continuing] ...the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the normalization agreements. As for the PNC resolutions, they are not really related in any way to the Camp David accords.

We indicated on more than one occasion that circumstances have rendered the Camp David accords outdated, especially since the Israeli side has issued two laws pertaining to East Jerusalem and the Golan. Hence, comparing the PNC resolutions to what is contained in the Camp David accords is not correct.

[Halevi] It is well known that there is a provision in the Camp David accords that the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be determined through negotiations to be held among Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Palestinian figures.

Now, the PLO has unilaterally announced the establishment of an independent Palestinian state without delineating the borders of that state. Does not this give rise to doubts in the heart, Dr Mustafa Khalil?

[Khalil] No, not at all. I say here that the Camp David accords provided a solution for an interim period. As for the negotiations, they were supposed to begin within 1 year.

As for the interim period, the territories were supposed to be placed under an elected Palestinian authority, to whom responsiblity should have been transferred from military rule. Five years from the beginning of the end of the military rule, namely....

[Halevi, interrupting] When we read the recent PNC session's resolutions, we note that the recognition of the Resolutions No. 242 and 338 was not unqualified or clear. What is your opinion of this?

[Khalil] No, I take a different view. I believe that they are clear and unqualified. And this has been proven by the reactions voiced in the UK and West European states. This means that there are no doubts about their [the PLO leaders'] recognition of Resolutions No 242 and 338.

[Halevi] Dr Mustafa Khalil, are you personally concerned about the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty because of Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state? Or do you believe that there is no relation among the PNC resolutions, recognition, and the peace march?

[Khalil] On the contrary. The Egyptian-Israeli agreement is the cornerstone of peace in the region. I can say that the change in the Palestinian stand is a positive one in complete harmony with Egypt's desire to establish a comprehensive and durable peace.

Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel as a model to be emulated by the remaining Arab parties. On the contrary, we believe that this change is a positive move toward peace, in which Egypt and Israel are playing a basic role.

[Halevi] Do you believe that Egypt's efforts will focus at present on convincing Yasir 'Arafat to reach an agreement with King Husayn on their joint delegation to the international conference if that conference were to convene?

[Khalil] I believe that this is first and foremost left to the two sides [words indistinct]. We cannot say what the two sides or what Egypt will do until the conference materializes.

[Halevi] A last question for you, Dr Mustafa Khalil. Do you plan to come to Israel to reassure officials here?

[Khalil] I believe that officials do not need my reassurance at all, as the statements announced as well as the official statements made by his excellency the president and the Egyptian Government confirm completely and reassure the Israeli authorities that Egypt's intentions are peaceful.

These intentions confirm that Egypt is pursuing the objective of bringing about peace in the Middle East and that it seeks to see Arab parties reach that peace with Israel. We urge the Israeli authorities to respond favorably to this trend.

[Halevi] Thank you sir.

[Khalil] Thank you.

[Halevi] You are most welcome.

Egyptian 'Challenge' Termed Policy 'Turning Point'

TA2211135988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 88 p 13

[Commentary by Yoram Hamizrahi: "The Moment of Truth Came Earlier"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—Egypt's announcement officially recognizing the Palestinian state, which came after a few days of conflicting statements, represents a turning point in Egypt's foreign policy as it has been conducted since 1977; it may yet close the lid on Al-Sadat's initiative.

Not only does this recognition strengthen the PLO, the state whose establishment it proclaimed, its leader Yasir 'Arafat, and his supporters in the PNC from the Egyptian-Palestinian point of view, but it also strengthens it in the broader international context both inside and outside the Middle East.

It accelerates the rapprochement between Egypt and the Arab states, and it enhances the chances of its full return into the bosom of the Arab League.

At the same time, this decision jeopardizes Egypt's ability to participate actively in the peace process, at least in its current configuration based on an international conference or the spirit of Camp David.

This recognition forces new opening rules on the Middle East policy of a George Bush administration, and at the same time, poses a serious political challenge to Israel, which will have to make up its mind—and quite rapidly at that—as to how to react to the Egyptian move.

The moment of truth of "the morning after the handover of Tabah" would seem to have come earlier than expected. Egypt decided to take a limited risk in returning Tabah to its sovereignty, apparently being convinced that Israel would not be able to ignore or consciously postpone the implementation of the arbitration ruling without being severely reprimanded by the international community.

If Israel refused to go ahead with the implementation of the ruling, Tabah—which is being depicted here as "the last grain of Egyptian soil under occupation"—could serve as an excellent propaganda lever which would pave the way to wider pan-Arab dialogue and understanding.

Political observers and journalists in Cairo who were surprised by Egypt's recognition/nonrecognition moves stressed that these exercises had been conducted in a way that was unusual for Egyptian diplomacy. These circles said yesterday that the dramatic declaration "attests to the victory of the firm, pro-Palestinian, and pro-Arab line in the Egyptian establishment."

The main advocate of this line is Dr Usamah al-Baz who, while holding other titles, is also the president's political adviser.

Al-Baz, described by PLO members and spokesmen as "the friend of the Palestinians" and by others even as "the man in charge of bringing Egypt back into the Arab world," has in the last few weeks commented on issues pertaining to the Israeli-Arab conflict in a way which left no doubts as to the direction Egypt is headed.

He explicitly spoke against the spirit of Camp David, saying that "Egypt is not being held in handcuffs and will rush to help any Arab country that is attacked by Israel." [passage omitted]

We should pay considerable attention to Al-Baz's remarks. Al-Baz usually says things that ultimately come into being. If the Palestinian state is "a state and an Arab sister for all intents and purposes" and the intifada [uprising] is war, where does the limit of Egypt's commitment lie?

The latest Egyptian move also attests to the serious failure of Israel's foreign policy in everything pertaining to Egypt, the Arab world, and the peace process; a policy which through blindness wasted 10 years shirking a decision—albeit a very tough one—on the future of the territories.

People in Cairo say the Camp David accords explicitly show there is no question of a separate peace with Egypt unless this peace is a first step toward an agreement in the entire Middle East and a solution of the Palestinian problem in particular.

There is nothing new in the fact that the Egyptian-Israeli peace process is in danger. The news lies in the latest challenge: Egypt's decision to stop stalling and to make Israel face up to a fateful moment of truth in the history of the Middle East.

Resolutions Seen Aimed at Dialogue With U.S.

TA2211155488 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What Else Do They Want?"]

[Text] The resolute and comprehensive Israeli rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state casts a shadow of disappointment and despair over all peace-loving forces. We did not expect Israel to accept this step or to greet it with zeal, but we did expect Israel to study it seriously.

This Israeli reaction, however, will not dissuade us from proceeding on the new route adopted by the Palestinian leadership. Moreover, the lack of positive Israeli response places a militant task on the Palestinian leadership: to gain international recognition for this state and persuade the world to accept the Palestinian people's legitimate rights within the new strategy of peace.

The main objective of the proclamation of the Palestinian state was for this state to enjoy international legitimacy, to be recognized by other countries, and to be treated on an equal footing. No one ever thought that the Palestinian motive was a regional one.

One of the elementary facts of the Palestinian cause is that it is a pan-Arab cause and that the Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation, taking pride in being affiliated with it. Our dream was and remains to see the banner of unity fluttering in the sky of the Arab land, for in this world and in this era there is no longer any room for a small and weak state.

But if the circumstances in which our cause is passing deem fit that the Palestinian character and state be in the spotlight, this is a passing phenomenon necessary to impose the Palestinian presence in the region. In the long term, however, we have to return to the fold of our Arab nation—we can do without it, nor can the Arab nation dispense with us.

There is no doubt that the Algiers resolutions were an outcome of the historic Jordanian decision to cut administrative and legal ties with the occupied West Bank. This decision had the greatest effect and significance on the course of events as well as in hastening the proclamation of an independent state.

Furthermore, this decision gave the necessary impetus to the Palestinian cause and enabled the Palestinian leadership to confront the Israeli challenge. The Algiers resolutions came against the background of the disengagement and as a crowning to the uprising in the occupied territories which has been going on for almost a year.

The step taken by the Palestinian leaders is a giant one. They embarked on it to hasten the achievement of an honorable solution to the Palestinian problem, in the hope that this step would represent an evolution in the perspective toward this problem, would persuade the parties to convene the international conference, and would bring about mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinian state.

We cannot but mention that one of the basic aims of the Algiers resolutions was the opening of a direct dialogue between the PLO and the United States, which had made the beginning of dialogue conditional on the PLO's acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Richard Murphy and his aides had always repeated to the Palestinians that as soon as the PLO accepts these two resolutions, a U.S. Government envoy will depart for Tunis to launch a dialogue with the PLO.

What happened? Washington announced that the Algiers resolutions were inadequate and that the PLO must adopt other steps and make further concessions. In addition to accepting the two Security Council resolutions, Washington added another condition, namely a clear and explicit recognition of Israel and a renunciation of terrorism.

The PLO had already renounced terrorism, but the United States did not say which Israeli borders it wanted the PLO to recognize.

If the PLO has to meet all these conditions, perhaps Washington might tell us what task will remain for the international conference and the negotiations? We reiterate that the principal objective of the Algiers resolutions was the launching of a direct dialogue between the PLO and Washington. We hope that the new U.S. Administration will maintain a level of responsibility and be committed to the promises of its previous government.

HA'ARETZ Speculates on Bush, Baker Policies

TA2211145788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 88 p 13

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "What the Jews Say Counts"]

[Text] Only once did you manage to arouse the anger of your friend George Shultz, a senior U.S. Administration official told me. It was over the issue of limiting the destination of Soviet Jewish emigrants. As a "true blue" American, Shultz could not stand Israel's attempt to undermine the basic democratic principle of freedom of choice.

Israel's relations with the outgoing administration took the form of a deeply felt romance, which is typical to Ronald Reagan, who to a large extent operated according to likes and various emotional dictates. There are those who say that the secret of Shultz' fondness for Israel is in his memory of his Israeli student who left in a hurry to participate in one of the wars and did not return.

Anyway, the behavior of these two personalities made many Israelis believe in recent years that the Americans are in our pocket no matter how Israel behaves. It is enough to recall the Lebanon war and the blatant rejection of the Reagan plan, the Pollard affair, Irangate, the thwarting of the Shultz plan, and the intifada [uprising]. All these left marks here and there, but did not even cost Israel anything in aid funds.

George Bush and James Baker, the strongman in his administration, are coming to the White House with a great deal of composure and thought and a somewhat limited amount of feelings. They are practical people who will operate according to rational criteria, and will deal with relations with Israel according to the return on each dollar.

For example, there is no guarantee that the Bush administration will stick to the approach of Reagan's, which preferred to give priority to strategic cooperation with Israel—although a report by a committee headed by Henry Kissinger and Zbigniew Brzezinski emphasizes Turkey as a strategic asset of the highest priority, while Israel and Egypt appear only marginally.

In the field of economic aid, Israel can also expect to find in the State Department a secretary who is more banker than friend. Baker will learn the lesson that Shultz did not exploit. When the latter learned in early 1985 that the Israeli Government did not take the economic rehabilitation plan seriously enough, he posited a series of conditions for receiving emergency aid. Shultz finally decided to ignore Israel's aversion to taking steps to change the structure of the economy.

Baker is likely to demand guarantees for Israeli good behavior in the economic sphere as a condition for receiving reduced economic aid. Bush, who in contrast to his predecessor does not despise dealing with details, will give Baker full backing (if he needs it at all, in view of his special position in the new administration) when the latter refuses to fund Israeli adventures such as the Lavi, settlements, or the rescue of failing industrial plants.

Bush's reaction to the resolutions of the PNC also shows that pragmatism is replacing the ideology which ruled in the White House. The President-elect did tell the PLO

that although the resolutions did show a modest new direction, they are far from satisfactory; to Bush, however, 'Arafat is not the bad man with the beard and the pistol.

The new President, who was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, will not ignore the extent of support for the organization, which is regarded by most of the world as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PNC resolutions will encourage the new administration to continue to pressure 'Arafat on the assumption-/hope that he is ripe for an additional step that will give him a permanent visa to Washington, followed by a place of honor at the negotiating table.

As was the case in the contacts with the Soviets, there is also proof here that in the final analysis, it is U.S. determination that moves the other party in the desired direction. This will encourage the United States to use this tactic in the future as well.

U.S. pundits are agreed that the Bush-Baker team will not violate the principles of the outgoing administration's foreign policy, which stressed the axis between the two superpowers. Everything else, including the Middle East, has to fit into that framework.

Bush and Baker will want to avoid a conflagration in the region—and if they become convinced that Israel's policy in the territories brings the danger closer to hand and sabotages U.S. interests, the Bush team will not hesitate to take the steps it regards as necessary to rein in Israel.

On the other hand, if they become convinced that the parties are ready for a political process—or that the absence of such a process invites negative elements to enter the vacuum created—then Baker and his advisers will take the Shultz plan out of the drawer.

It must be recalled that this plan first appeared at the beginning of this year, armed with almost wall-to-wall congressional backing. The growing influence of Jesse Jackson on the one hand and pro-Arab elements on the other on the Democratic Party leadership will make it harder for the Israeli lobbyists and the Jews, who were spoiled in recent years by the almost automatic support of a wide-ranging Democratic front in Congress.

The appointment of Governor John Sununu, who is of Arab descent, as White House chief of staff is worrying many Jews in the United States and Israel. It seems, however, that Israel will be harmed not by an Arab American, but, rather by a Jewish American, the Lubavitcher rebbe, who wants to dictate to Israel who is a Jew. Bush, who for most of his public life was "number two" and who does not have the traits of a dominant personality, is used to teamwork. He will not stick to only one person, not even Baker, to whom he owes his election victory.

Therefore, there is no reason for exaggerated fears about the White House chief of staff. Israel should be more concerned about administration and congressional reactions to the Who Is a Jew amendment.

The very readiness to make a commitment to a group of fanatical rabbis that the Law of Return will be adapted to Halakah damages the Judeo-Christian ethic, the system of democratic-humane values in which American and Israelis believe.

An erosion in political support by Jews for Israel and an erosion in contributions to fund-raising for Israel—the accepted index for judging the strength of the support—will be used as a signal to the incoming administration that it is also permitted to hit Israel in political support and on the above issues.

AL-SHA'B: Resolutions Put U.S. on Spot

TA2211164488 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Nov 88 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "The Ball Is in the U.S. Court"]

[Text] With the PNC's declaration of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, as well as with its unambiguous acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 within the context of all UN resolutions constituting the basis for convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East, the PLO has thrown the ball into the U.S. court.

For many years the United States has refused to recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and has rejected the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the pretext that the PLO had not recognized these two resolutions.

Perhaps the accelerating international support for the PNC resolutions and the continuing recognition for the newly born Palestinian state, which reached its climax yesterday with the official statement by the Soviet Union recognizing the proclamation of the independent state, reflect the importance the PLO is enjoying in the international arena.

The Soviet Union is the first of the Security Council's five permanent member states to embark on such a step.

In his meeting with members of the diplomatic corps in Israel, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres acknowledged for the first time the PLO's accelerating presence on the international arena following the proclamation of

Palestinian independence and the elimination of the Jordanian option on which he had always bet in his efforts to remove the PLO from any forthcoming peace negotiations.

This acknowledgment reflects the dilemma that Israeli leaders are experiencing due to their continuing disavowal of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. It also represents the first testimony by Peres that the uprising, which has been going on for 11 months, has provided the PLO with an extensive presence in the international arena and has forever neutralized any option that does not take into consideration the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Now that the PLO, through its highest legislative body, has unambiguously determined the framework and principles of Palestinian action in the international arena for the coming years, no pretexts are left for the foes of the Palestinian cause to continue their intransigence and evasions.

Hence, it is hoped that the coming few days and months will witness a breakthrough in the peace process, especially since the Middle East problem remains at the top of the two superpowers' global priorities.

Sinyurah: Algiers 'Triumph' for 'Voice of Reason'
TA2111143788 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 21 Nov 88 p 16

[Interview with AL-FAJR Editor in Chief Hanna Sinyurah by Mahir Abu Khatir; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: Are you satisfied with the outcome of the PNC meeting or do you feel it should have been more forthcoming?

A: The results of the Israeli elections disappointed friends as well as foes. Many in the Palestinian camp feared that as a result of the hardening of the Israeli positions, this would adversely affect the resolutions of the Palestine National Council.

What I saw coming from Algiers is the triumph of the voice of reason and moderation, as well as democracy and a forceful drive to build up momentum for a peace process in the next few months.

Q: 'Arafat warned that if the new position that came out of the PNC did not yield results, he will go back to the PNC and tell them that moderation did not work. Do you agree he should do this and how long would you give the international community to react?

A: I would be naive to think that in one stroke the momentous decisions our leadership took will change attitudes. Certainly there are important new clear decisions and political developments taken by the PLO, but our push for peace and the diplomatic and political campaign has just started.

The time for evaluation, in my opinion, would be not until the meeting of the 20th PNC. The next session might be held in 12 to 18 months.

Q: What is your assessment of the Israeli and international reactions to the PNC resolutions and declaration of a state, particularly the feedback coming from the U.S. and Western Europe?

A: The U.S. feedback on the declaration of independence was expected, even the Israeli reaction from the Likud was a foregone conclusion. They have wax in their ears and they are unwilling to see new developments. The reaction of the Israeli Labor Party was a surprise.

Shim'on Peres was very negative, influenced by his clinging to political power and jockeying for a place in a new grand coalition government. The voice of Labor, if it will be the opposition party in the next few weeks, was voiced by Abba Eban, who reacted in a positive manner but asked for further clarifications.

The European Community took a cautious wait-and-see attitude although with favorable reaction. Third World countries, Arab and Islamic counties and the Eastern bloc welcomed the new developments, and before the year is out more than 100 countries will recognize the newborn Palestinian state.

Q: With the Likud asked to form the new government and its use of tough terms against the Palestinians, things do not look good, do they?

A: The next government of Israel will be headed by the Likud for the full four-year term of the Knesset. The road is open to the Likud to take either of two paths. The Likud can build on the Rabin years, which means escalating the tension and violence, building new settlements and probably leading to not just a confrontation with the Intifada [uprising], but a major new Arab-Israeli war.

Likud can try to become the dominant Israeli party for the next generation or two, like Labor in the first three decades of the Israeli state. This requires a gradual about turn and reconsideration of the 14 points of the Palestinian National Institutions in January to pave the way for negotiations between the PLO and the Government of Israel.

Q: What do you think the next step for the Palestinians should be?

A: Despite the heavy sacrifices, the Palestinians, in order to keep the urgency of the situation spotlighted universally, must continue to pursue the same course of the

past 11 months, and at the same time insist that education and the school systems should be reopened and pursue a more vigorous non-violent campaign of resistance against the occupation.

This is our lot here, while the leadership role is to dispel the fears of the new emergent State of Palestine by clarifying intentions, and leading a political diplomatic campaign internationally.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 21 November in a page A6 report by Arye Bender and Re'uma Shahor adds: "'Although the Palestinian declaration of independence in Algiers was based on UN partition Resolution 181, we know it is impossible to go back to the 1947 borders. The Palestinians understand that they missed their chance 40 years ago. That is why we wish to convene an international conference according to Resolutions 242 and 338; this means that the Palestinian state's final borders will be those created in 1967.' These remarks were made yesterday by AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah to a delegation of American Jewish Committee members at the Laromme Hotel in Jerusalem."]

AL-FAJR Urges 'Reciprocity' on Resolution

TA2111133588 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 21 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Last Call for Peace; Do Not Undermine It"]

[Text] The Palestinian people's unity, democracy and moderation have triumphed. In a well thought-out and wise decision, the Palestine National Council voted to accept UN Security Council Resolution 242 as a base for future Palestinian-Israeli negotiations through an international conference.

The Palestinian decision did not come out of weakness or external pressure. It came as an expression of an honest Palestinian desire to see peace and prosperity prevail in this region benefiting every person, regardless of his or her nationality or religion.

The PNC resolutions are very clear and straightforward. There is no ambiguity in their language or intentions. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was very frank in saying that the Palestinians accept 242 as the base for negotiations. It is therefore up to the international community now to keep their part of the deal.

The U.S. and many Western European countries have used the PLO's rejection of 242 as a pretext for their refusal to talk with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. What excuse are these governments going to offer today if they plan to continue with their old policy of denying Palestinian rights?

The PLO chairman was clear in what he said at his press conference at the conclusion of the PNC session. He said that the PLO has offered moderation, flexibility and realism when it voted to accept 242. He said that if this Palestinian moderation is not accepted and encouraged, he will go back to the PNC and tell them that moderation does not work.

Of course no one wants this to happen. If moderation is not going to work, then what other options are left to us? The Palestinian people have put down their last card. There is nothing more they can do on the road to a peaceful settlement. Reciprocity must come from the rest of the world. No more excuses will be accepted.

The Palestinian people are offering peace and a permanent end to wars, destruction and suffering in this region. Many people will benefit from this peace in addition to the Palestinians and Israelis. It is a great opportunity that should not be taken lightly, nor wasted.

Shaykh Darwish Supports PNC Proclamation

TA2211115588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Nov 88 p 4

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] PLO supporters in the territories are satisfied with the statement made by Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, head of the Islamic Movement within the Green Line, in support of the proclamation of a Palestinian state.

In an interview with AL-JAWAL, a local paper published in Al-Taiyiba in the Triangle, Shaykh Darwish said that the proclamation of a Palestinian state can be used as the criterion for identifying those who genuinely support Palestinian rights: those supporting the proclamation of Palestinian independence are telling the truth when they say they support Palestinian rights, while those who do not support the proclamation are not sincere supporters of Palestinian rights.

PLO supporters in the territories hope this statement will influence Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement), which objects to the proclamation of a Palestinian state, to change its mind. As may be recalled, Hamas claims that the proclamation of independence is an act of heresy and entails the concession of large areas of "Palestine" soil.

Paper Urges Adoption of 'Difficult' Decisions

TA2211175988 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 21 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "No Alternative to Difficult Decisions"]

[Text] The countries of the world are hastening to announce their recognition of the new Palestinian state. The Palestinian resolutions issued by the PNC in Algiers have shaken Israel and caused the collapse of all the foundations of Israeli policy.

Joy and happiness enveloped the occupied territories upon the announcement of the Algiers resolutions. PLO acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338 should convince the world that there is a clear evolution in the Palestinian stance. This evolution requires the international community to bear its responsibility and induce Israel to accept the international conference and a just peace based on the Palestinian people's achievement of their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination.

What about Israel's evasion and its Byzantine arguments about: Why has the PLO's recognition of Israel been implicit, not explicit? Why has the renunciation of terrorism by the PLO not been clear and unconditional? Is it true that the Palestinians yearn for peace?

And can the Israeli people trust PLO decisions? These are discredited questions, and Israel can no longer evade the clear Palestinian invitation to peace. If Israel believes that the Palestinians are being deceptive, it has only to test this new experiment for achieving peace if it is in fact looking forward to an end to the conflict.

Since Israel has always wagered on arms in its dispute with the Arab nation, why does not it not bet on plunging into the warm waters of peace in order to spare the Israeli people from continuing cycles of war and violence?

Common sense requires the leaders of Israel to reassess their views and to speak frankly with their people about this adventure which can lead to the achievement of all mankind's aspirations, namely peace, stability, and security.

It was not easy for the PLO to adopt these difficult decisions. This PNC session represented a historic turning point for the future. The PLO had rejected all these decisions which it has accepted now. It rejected the Amman agreement of 1985, and along with Jordan, suffered a great deal of hardship as a result.

Today the PLO has accepted these plans as a popular demand from the people of the uprising, and because following disengagement from Jordan, the PLO had no alternative but to proclaim the independent state and accept what it had rejected in the past.

By adopting these decisions now, the PLO has blocked the continuing Judaization of the occupied territories, responded positively to the masses of the Palestinian people, painted Israel and its allies into a corner, and proved that there is no alternative to finding a solution to this complicated problem and that Israel's dreams to impose a fait accompli have dissipated.

Israel can no longer ignore the Palestinian people's rights. It must adopt difficult and bold decisions similar to those adopted by the PLO. Then the region will enjoy the peace which has been absent in it for decades.

SLA's Lahd in 'Serious but Stable' Condition

TA2311133888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The condition of Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], continues to be serious but stable.

Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that 2 weeks after the attempt on his life Lahd breathes with the help of an artificial respirator and remains unconscious.

Ensign Sentenced for 'Reprisal' Act in Qalandiyah

TA2311063688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] A platoon commander in a paratroop battalion was given a 2-week sentence after being found responsible for a reprisal operation in which soldiers vandalized vehicles in the Qalandiyah refugee camp after being stoned.

The platoon commander—an officer with the rank of ensign—was the highest ranking soldier on the bus, which was stoned at noon. He was sentenced in a speedy trial in his brigade. A senior IDF source said last night that the IDF takes a grave view of the reprisal action by the soldiers of the brigade.

Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, appointed an investigating officer who will complete his task either today or tomorrow.

Update on 22 Nov Incidents in Territories

TA2311090888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Nov 88 p 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] At least 16 Palestinians were wounded yesterday in clashes in the territories, including three people shot by soldiers who were breaking up a march in the old city of Nabulus to mark the declaration of independence by the Palestine National Council. [passage omitted]

In clashes that erupted during a raid on Kafr al-Dik, southwest of Nabulus, two men were wounded, one of them seriously in the back. Two other persons were wounded by rubber bullets.

A 15-year-old boy from Qabatiyah, Majd Sa'id, was hospitalized in Nabulus with burns in the face, hands and chest, after being hit by a burning object thrown at him by troops, Palestinians said. A boy from Tammun suffered burns on Sunday in a similar incident at Jiftlik in the Jordan Valley, according to Palestinian accounts.

There have been at least five cases of burn injuries in areas near Nabulus in recent weeks, in which victims have reported being hit by burning objects thrown at them by soldiers.

Troops carried out dawn raids on villages in the West Bank, ordering residents to clear roadblocks, remove Palestinian flags, and paint over nationalist graffiti. Soldiers raided the villages of Sarah and Tall near Nabulus, and raids were also reported at Battir and Husan near Bethlehem.

The raids, which were stepped up in advance of last week's PNC meeting, have been carried out daily for nearly two weeks.

The village of Kafr Malik was sealed off, a day after a raid by troops. Kafr Malik has been under intermittent military closure for months, apparently to pressure villagers to surrender wanted suspects. The Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah, and village of Fasa'il, north of Jericho, were under curfew.

Palestinians are to observe a general strike today, in solidarity with Palestinian deportees. The strike was called in leaflet 29 of the underground leadership of the uprising.

Joshua Brilliant adds:

Five people were injurred in the Gaza Strip yesterday, as troops clashed with Palestinians in Khan Yunus, Al-Shati' and Jabalyah.

The IDF spokesman confirmed two wounded in Khan Yunus.

According to a reliable Palestinian source, two people were injured in the Al-Shati' refugee camp yesterday afternoon: 16-year-old Mahmud Mas'ud, who was shot in the abdomen, and 18-year-old Rahab Muhammad Abu'iWatfa, who was shot in the right leg.

The source added that several youngsters stoned soldiers from distances of 50-to-100 metres and that 13-year-old Muhammad Na'man Zakhur was wounded in the leg in the shooting that followed.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 23 November reports: "This morning the IDF imposed a curfew on three locations in the Gaza Strip in order to prevent disturbances. The locations are Dayr al-Balah, the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah, and the Al-Shati' refugee camp in Gaza."]

Teenager Dies of Wounds

TA2311114588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Aman Hamami, a 13-year-old teenager from the village of Bayta, died at Tel Hashomer Hospital today. He was wounded on Saturday by IDF gunshots during disturbances in the village. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Returns From Visit to Syria 22 Nov
JN2211185388 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] King Husayn this evening returned to the homeland after a short working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. During the visit, His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting in the Presidential Palace in Damascus at 1345 today.

The talks between His Majesty King Husayn and President Hafiz Al-Asad started in the Presidential Palace in Damascus at noon today and dealt with consultations, events, and new developments in the Arab and international arenas. They also dealt with the situation in the region, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and fraternal bilateral relations.

The discussions were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and on the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Refugees To Be Reconsidered as Voters
JN10N091288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10-11 Nov 88 p 3

[By Ranya 'Atallah]

[Excerpts] Amman—While amendments regarding the electoral constituencies and seats in the general parliamentary elections law have not been finalised yet, amendments of procedural matters are expected to be covered before the end of this month, according to Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani.

The general elections law was issued in 1986, but developments which followed Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank, especially the dissolution of parliament, necessitated a revision of the law , especially in view of the fact that it consisted of an equal number of East and West Bank deputies, totalling 142. [passage omitted]

Al-Dajani had earlier told AL-RA'Y that as electoral constituencies, the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan would be reconsidered, and that the registered voters' names would be integrated in other constituencies.

Crown Prince Views 'New Economic Phase'
JN1911173588 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said the new economic phase in Jordan dictates on us to redirect our priorities, to be self-reliant, and to adopt a decentralized system.

His royal highness made the remarks at the opening of a seminar on the development of the northern districts of the Kingdom. The seminar was held at the Yarmuk University in Irbid.

His royal highness called for the involvement of all economic sectors into the development process and for focusing on productivity and good management in order to adopt the new economic phase.

Chairs Development Seminar
JN2011084388 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Irbid (Petra)—The new phase in Jordan's economy makes it incumbent upon all citizens to concentrate on priorities, adapt to the new realities and direct their efforts towards serving the national interest and realising the Kingdom's economic plans, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan said here Saturday.

"It is time for all sectors to involve themselves in activities designed to bolster the national economy through well-defined and sound plans," the Prince said in an address to a seminar discussing achievements of development councils in the Irbid and Mafraq governorates.

Prince Hasan urged all sectors to adopt the concepts of self-reliance and decentralisation in their endeavours and noted that the seminar was intended as an attempt to involve all parties in the two regions.

The northern, central and southern regions will jointly take part in an enlarged seminar which will chart the national economic and social development policies for the coming years, Prince Hasan noted.

He emphasised that the planning process was continuing and could go beyond the coming years. "It could reach the point when the central government would discuss with local government in each province issues pertaining to the economy of that particular region," Prince Hasan added.

He called for the transformation of development councils into executive councils contributing to the development of various sectors. The development councils should also be entrusted with follow up tasks, especially in production projects, the Prince said.

Minister of Planning Tahir Kan'an addressed the meeting at the outset of the session underlining the importance of democratic dialogue between officials and members of the public on all matters affecting livelihood, the national economy and development.

The seminar, the minister noted, is a stock-taking and an assessment of the development plans in the Kingdom similar to those held earlier to assess the work of development councils in the central and southern regions.

Kan'an reviewed the situation in the foreign exchance markets which led to an adjustment in the Jordanian dinar's value and said that despite the developments, Jordan's agricultural and industrial products had received a great boost since they are now in a better competitive position on foreign markets.

Curbs imposed on imports have led investors to look towards new projects to produce consumer commodities for the Jordanian market, the minister said.

The minister reviewed areas where investment is possible in the northern regions of the Kingdom, mentioning in particular those in tourism, agriculture and industry.

Working papers to be discussed at the two-day seminar deal with transport, water, agriculture, municipal affairs, voluntary and social development, industry, customs, tourism, youth and health.

Japanese Investment Delegation Meets Leaders

JN1911175788 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at his office this morning a delegation of the Japanese investment company Seto. His royal highness told the delegation that Jordan will strive to become an industrial state in the next decade. Jordan, his royal highness said, will continue its unique regional role as a bridge linking South and West Asia.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, at a meeting with the delegation, explained the advantages of investment in Jordan. He said Jordan enjoys a favorable investment climate and has the infrastructure and a qualified and trained manpower needed to guarantee a viable investment. Incentives offered and legislation in force, the prime minister said, are also a factor encouraging investment in Jordan. Jordan, he said, wishes to expand cooperation with Japan in all areas.

Discusses Cooperation Prospects

JN2211080288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 88 p 6

[Text] AMMAN (PETRA, J.T.)—A team from the Japanese industrial firm, Seto, now on a visit to Jordan, met here Monday with Jordanian ministers to discuss prospects for bilateral cooperation and joint ventures.

According to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, the 19-member team was briefed by Planning Minister Tahir Kan'an on Jordan's laws concerning tax incentives and regulations to encourage investors. He explained to the team the facilities in customs procedures, registration of companies and other formalities.

Kan'an spoke also about Jordan's strong ties with Arab and European countries formed through bilateral trade agreements and marketing facilities given to Jordan's agricultural and industrial products in these countries.

The team and the minister discussed steps that could be taken in preparation for projected joint ventures that would include paper processing, agricultural industries and fishing projects, the products of which to be exported to Japanese markets, according to PETRA.

The two sides, the agency said, reviewed bilateral cooperation in economic and trade fields and the prospect of employing part of a Japanese $300 million loan to finance, such ventures.

Kan'an said that in the event of such ventures materialising in Jordan, the Kingdom will offer facilities and trained manpower while Japan can provide equipment and expertise.

The Japanese team called later on Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' to discuss investment opportunities, tax incentives and steps for launching joint ventures.

Al-Tabba' also briefed the team on Jordan's recent economic, financial and monetary measures to stimulate the national economy with particular reference to the managed flotation of the dinar. He said that the measures are bound to lure investors to set up industrial projects and to expand existing enterprises in the Kingdom.

The leader of the team, Iwao Endo, expressed Seto's willingness to set up a number of industrial projects in Jordan's free zones at Aqaba and Zarqa. Products manufactured at these areas, he said, would be exported to various parts of the world through Seto branches, Endo said at the meeting.

Later, the team met with Water and Irrigation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan and discussed subjects related to financing water and irrigation projects in the country.

Endo and Dakhqan reviewed plans by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to promote water services in development projects. In a statement to Reuters, Endo earlier said that Seto planned to set up a joint venture for paper processing in Jordan.

Endo, who is Seto's general manager for the Middle and Near East said he expected the project to be operational next year.

Endo declined to name the Jordanian partner in the venture or disclose its cost, but he told REUTERS agreement on the deal was close.

He said the venture would import bulk paper supplies from Japan or Europe for conversion into computer paper and other products to be sold in Jordan, Japan and other countries.

He said his company had a strong interest in investing in Jordan's chemical industry, based on potash, phosphates and salts from the Dead Sea, but had made no commitments.

Meets Public Works Minister

JN2311114588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Nov 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA, J.T.)—A team from the Japanese industrial firm, Seto, Tuesday had a discussion with Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq al-Zawaydiah, on prospects of cooperation in construction matters and contracting.

They also discussed the possibility of employing Jordanian engineers to work for the company in the Middle East region and to benefit from Jordanian contractors services.

The 19-member team later called at the Sahab Industrial City near Amman and were briefed on the different installations, industrial businesses and facilities offered to them by the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation.

The team was told that more than JD 100 million have been invested in the Sahab Industrial City and that 23 contracts were signed recently to establish another 23 industries with a total capital of JD 5 million.

According to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, the team displayed interest in launching cooperation with Jordanian businessmen at the city.

The team Monday met with three Jordanian ministers and discussed Seto's plans to launch joint ventures in Jordan.

Senate Speaker Receives FRG Parliamentarians

JN1911081188 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 88 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman (Petra)—Economic cooperation between West Germany and Jordan is bound to contribute to the Kingdom's development and prosperity, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al-Lawzi said at a meeting here Thursday with a visiting West German parliamentary delegation

King Husayn's visits to West Germany was [as published] an expression of the Kingdom's belief in the importance of that country's leading role within the European Community, to bring about stability and peace to the Middle East," [quote marks as published] Al-Lawzi said at the meeting which was held at parliament building.

Jordan, Al-Lawzi said, "Takes pride in its relations with the Federal Republic of Germany and hopes that Bonn will be instrumental in convening an international Middle East peace conference.

"Israel's continued rejection of peace and international will represents the major stumbling block in the path of this region's stability and security, and continues to cause further wastage of the Middle Eastern countries' financial, economic and human resources," Al-Lawzi pointed out.

Thus, he said, calls for West Germany and the European Community to play a leading role in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and help bring about peace to the region. [sentence as published]

The head of the visiting delegation paid tribute to efforts by His Majesty King Husayn in orienting world public opinion on the real situation in the region and in seeking an international conference to establish a lasting peace. [passage omitted]

TIMES on 'Missed Opportunities' for Peace

JN2211074388 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Oh no, not another 'Missed opportunity'"]

[Text] One of the favourite phrases of American officials in successive administrations in the past decade has been "missed opportunities" for peace in the Middle East—a very pointed and unambiguous reference to the PLO's "failure to come through."

Well, this time the PLO has come through and accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and renounced "terrorism." Now it is up to Washington and American strategists to abandon procrastinations and make good their promises and pledges of sincerity to see peace prevailing in the Middle East. This is the message contained in remarks made by His Majesty King Husayn to U.S. television Saturday.

As His Majesty recalled in the interview, the PLO's acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338 and renunciation of terrorism were the two main conditions that the U.S. had set, as far back as April 1985, for PLO participation in an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Strangely enough, the PLO's compliance with the two conditions could only draw a lukewarm response from Washington, which, for all theoretical purposes, is anxious to find a just and lasting settlement to the Palestinian problem. If anything, one would expect the 12-month-old uprising in the occupied territories to have added a sense of urgency for a peaceful settlement. But not so any more for Washington, it would seem.

What happened, may we ask? Why do we get the feeling that the PLO gesture has suddenly poured cold water on American enthusiasm for peace in the Middle East? Or is it that the PLO's definite turn to a moderate course for peace through international legitimacy has thrown an unexpected spanner in the American works?

We hope that this is not the case and the American response to the PLO move was not very encouraging only because of the transitional phase between Reagan and Bush in the White House. At the same time, we also look to a Bush administration which inherits the eight-year experience of the Reagan White House in dealing with Israel, and which twists arms where necessary. That is the only alternative to continued violence and bloodshed in the Middle East.

Above all, let us hope this will also not be another "missed opportunity."

Italian Plan To Resolve Crisis Reported

NC2311154288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The ARAB WORLD WEEKLY agency has revealed that Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti has drawn up a plan to resolve the Lebanese crisis and contribute to the holding of presidential elections. The agency notes that Washington and Damascus have been informed of this plan, which provides for a meeting between the representatives of the UN Security Council permanent member states and the Syrian representative to revise the U.S.-Syrian agreement.

Citing informed sources, the agency says that Andreotti does not pin any hopes on a unilateral U.S. or Arab endeavor to resolve the Lebanese crisis, but believes that a solution may be attained through the Security Council. The agency notes that Andreotti presented his plan to Patriarch Sfayr during their meeting in Rome.

The agency says that Patriarch Sfayr undertook to convey the Italian plan to the Christian leaders if Washington and Damascus agreed to hold a meeting to amend Murphy's plan.

'Awn Reportedly Visits Lahd in Israeli Hospital

JN2211205488 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 21 Nov 88 p 1

[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM "exclusive"]

[Text] Michel 'Awn, head of the Lebanese military government, on Friday visited Rampam Hospital in Haifa, where the militia leader, the renegade Antoine Lahd, is being treated.

'Awn spent 4 hours at the hospital. He was received by enemy Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, his deputy Ehud Baraq, and the northern area commander Yosi Peled.

KGB Official To Investigate Novosti Blast

NC2311112988 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] It has been reported that an official in the Soviet intelligence service, the KGB, arrived in Beirut yesterday to investigate the issue of the explosive charge which was targeted against the Novosti offices in Al-Musaytibah.

Informed sources in West Beirut have indicated that the investigations into the case managed to gather evidence on the identity of the perpetrators and the side supporting them.

Further Reportage on Amal-Hizballah Clashes

Tension Eases in Suburb

NC2211172188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tension eased somewhat in the southern suburb as of 1800 this evening. Contacts are continuing to deal with the situation and to speed up the presence of Syrian Arab forces in the areas where the clashes took place.

Responsible Amal sources have said that the movement's leadership has issued strict instructions to its elements to exercise self-restraint, and not to fire back or become involved in a sedition.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, has resumed his contacts to deal with the security situation in the suburb. He has charged his aides with contacting leaders of the Amal Movement and Hizballah in an attempt to stop the fighting between them.

His eminence issued the following statement: We denounce the fighting in the suburb, regardless of its source and who started it. We demand both sides to cease fire immediatedly and to exercise maximum self-restraint. We appeal to the Syrian Arab forces to fully and strongly assume their role of maintaining security in the suburb, preventing an armed clash, and deterring both sides.

Amal Officials Cited on Clash

NC2211172288 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Beirut, Nov 22 (AFP)—Rival pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian Shi'ite militias clashed Tuesday with rocket and automatic weapons in suburbs south of the Lebanese capital, police said.

The hour-long exchange, for which police did not provide casualty figures, came a day after two leading members of Hizballah, a group backed by Iran, narrowly escaped death in a car-bomb attack in the eastern Al-Biqa' Valley.

Officials from the pro-Syrian Amal Movement told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Hizballah militants abducted several Amal partisans and opened fire on others during a ceremony.

But they said no one was hurt in the incident and order was quickly restored by the Syrian military.

Hizballah leaders could not be reached for comment.

The two groups fought a bloody battle for control of the southern suburbs last May until the intervention of Syrian troops.

Hizballah Accused of Provocations

NC2211190088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] An Amal Movement security source has stated the following:

A ceremony was held under the auspices of Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan at the center of the Islamic Mission Scouts in the Al-Shiyah area this afternoon. The ceremony was held to mark the graduation of female first aid workers from the Amal Movement's social services office. During the ceremony, the audience was surprised to hear shots outside the center at 1530.

It later transpired that Hizballah groups fired the shots in the vicinity of the center and in Al-Musharrafiyah as an act of provocation. Their intention was to stop the celebration, flare up the security situation in the suburb, and displace its inhabitants once again.

The Movement did not respond to the provocations and refrained from returning fire out of its desire to safeguard our people's security and safety and so as not to give an opportunity to the perpetrators of the sedition, who always seek to undermine the unity of ranks and confuse the security situation in the nationalist areas.

Consequently, and to preserve the lives of our people and their property, the Movement's security organs held intensive contacts with the brothers in the Syrian Arab forces to stop these practices and provocations by the Hizballah groups. These contacts resulted in a cease-fire at 1830. Security Committee members then headed patrols to control the situation on the spot.

Sporadic Gunfire in Suburb

NC2211213188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Although committees comprising the Syrian forces, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah entered Beirut's southern suburb at 1930 today to end the clashes between the Movement and the fundamentalist party, the sounds of machinegun fire and some sporadic rocket fire continue to be heard in the inner parts of Al-Ghubayrah and Al-Shiyah.

Meanwhile, the Al-Ghubayrah-al-Musharrafiyah-Airport Road remains risky and difficult to pass.

2 Civilians Killed, 10 Wounded

NC2311065688 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Complete calm prevails in Al-Ghubayrah, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, Al-Shiyah, and Al-Musharrafiyah following clashes which broke out between Hizballah and Amal Movement members yesterday. Security sources affirmed that a joint force comprising Amal and Hizballah personnel and a representative of the Arab Syrian forces entered the southern suburb last night and managed to restore the situation to normal when all gunmen abided by calls to observe a cease-fire and to withdraw from the streets.

The committee has also managed to eliminate all shows of force in the wake of the gunmen's withdrawal from areas which were the scene of clashes yesterday.

According to the preliminary toll obtained from hospital sources, 2 civilians were killed and 10 others wounded in these clashes. In their contacts with AFP, neither Amal Movement nor Hizballah admitted that there were victims, but security sources affirmed that grave losses were inflicted on both sides.

Syrians Blamed for Explosion

NC2311072088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports which cite Hizballah sources in the southern suburb, the party has received information that Syrian intelligence organs in Lebanon were behind the explosion operation carried out against Hizballah officials in Ba'labakk on 21 November.

The reports add that Brigadier General 'Adnan Ballul, deputy chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, engineered the operation.

Hizballah sources have accused the Syrians of planning the operation to deal a blow to the party and to weaken its influence in the Lebanese arena. The sources also note that elements of Syrian intelligence are putting the party's senior officials under surveillance in an attempt to harm them and to avenge the attempted assassination of the chief of Syrian military intelligence during the suburb war.

Hizballah sources have said that the party will carry out a counter-operation at the proper time, in reaction to the Ba'labakk operation.

'Security Problem' Emerges

NC2311073188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] A media source in Hizballah has stated that a security problem emerged between members of Hizballah and the Amal Movement near the 'Ammar Stable in the Al-Musharrafiyah area yesterday afternoon.

A state of alert was later declared among a group of Amal gunmen in the vicinity of the stable. The group tried to advance in the direction of several buildings. When the inhabitants tried to prevent them from advancing, the group opened fire.

The Amal Movement later deployed its gunmen in Al-Musharrafiyah, the vicinity of the Ministry of Resources, Marun Misk, and Rawdat al-Shahidayn. This

was followed by sudden indiscriminate medium-caliber machinegun fire in the direction of Hayy Madi, Bi'r al-'Abd, al-Ghubayrah, and Sfayr.

Hizballah officials held contacts with the security committee and the Syrian forces command, bringing the situation back to normal.

Clashes in Burj al-Barajinah

NC2311103188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Fighting between Hizballah and Amal members was renewed in the Burj al-Barajinah area this morning. Despite Syrian intervention, the two sides clashes using machineguns and rockets at 1015 and 1045.

All schools in the southern suburb have been closed because of the prevailing state of caution.

Resistance Captures Israeli Captain in South

NC2311112788 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] According to reports from the south, a resistance group intercepted a red BMW 520 along the Kafr Huna-Jazzin road at 1015 yesterday. Captain (Mordekhay Ore), official in charge of the Zionist military surveillance service in the Jazzin area, and agent Nicholas George Haddad were riding in the car. Both were captured and transported to the liberated area.

According to the same reports, the Zionist forces and their agents are mounting a large-scale search campaign and are raiding houses in the area.

Israeli Warplanes Break Sound Barrier

NC2311110188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying in the Lebanese skies at 1230 today.

Mock Raids Over Camps

NC2311120888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] A Palestinian source has declared that Israeli F-16 fighters conducted mock raids over the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps today. The Israeli planes, which dropped thermal balloons during the mock raids, drew antiaircraft fire, according to the source.

RFL on Beirut's 'Symbolic,' 'Timid' Parades

NC2211170188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] There were two portraits of the independence anniversary today: a picture of freedom and independence, and one of occupation and subservience. The first was displayed in the liberated areas, which are free of any foreign hegemony, and was marked by a strong diplomatic presence and a military parade, which took place at the Ministry of Defense in Al-Yarzah.

Meanwhile, the other picture in which the Lebanon independence anniversary was marred by subservience to others, was marked by an intense Syrian presence and a complete absence of Lebanese from the military parade, which was staged in the Henry Shihab barracks.

It should be asserted on this occasion that the real independence will not be evident without highlighting the first picture, pursuing the liberation plan, and driving out all the foreign occupations, which work to fragment the homeland and dominate its will.

On this occasion, a symbolic military parade was held at the National Defense Ministry yard in Al-Yarzah this morning. The parade, which was held in the presence of Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn, was marked by a noticeable diplomatic presence led by the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy.

Meanwhile, a timid military parade was held at the Henry Shihab barracks in West Beirut in the absence of state officials and diplomats. It was attended by a big Syrian military delegation and Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib, who spoke at the ceremony.

President Confers With Jordan's King Husayn
JN2211162388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad held a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace in Damascus at 1345 today.

Missing Shi'ite Leader Reportedly in Damascus
NC2311170288 Paris AFP in English 1638 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, Nov 23 (AFP)—A senior Shi'ite official from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), whose disappearance was reported last week in Beirut, has been in Damascus since Monday, well-informed Iranian sources said here.

They said Shaykh 'Abdallah Gharifi, who according to Gulf sources was the representative in the UAE for Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, had been expelled from Bahrain and was staying with a Bahraini student here.

Lebanon's Supreme Shi'ite Council accused the UAE of having arrested Shaykh Gharifi, head of the Shi'ite religious properties department in the UAE, and handed him over to authorities in Bahrain.

Gulf sources reported Sunday that the shaykh, who is of Bahraini origin but with UAE nationality, had been kidnapped in the UAE by three armed men.

They said he had been close to the Iran-based movement Al-Da'wah, a radical Shi'ite group operating in the Emirates. In his sermons he had reportedly aligned himself with Iranian positions hostile to Saudi Arabia.

U.S. Envoy's Talks With Assembly Speaker Noted
JN2211160088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1440 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 22 Nov (SANA)—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah received U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian here today. The talks centered on bilateral relations, especially parliamentary ties, and the importance of improving and developing them.

The U.S. ambassador said that he is pleased to work as U.S. ambassador to Syria, which plays a prominent role in the important issues in this sensitive part of the world. He also stressed the importance of exchanging delegations and visits between the U.S. Congress and the Syrian People's Assembly.

Qaddurah then referred to the importance of maintaining balanced relations beteween Syria and the United States on the basis of mutual respect.

Jordanian Energy Minister Arrives 20 Nov
JN2011195588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Jordanian Energy Minister Dr Hisham al-Khatib arrived in Damascus this afternoon on an official 5-day visit to the country. The guest delegation will hold official talks with the electricity minister and a number of officials in the country dealing with many bilateral issues of mutual interest in the fields of electricity and mineral wealth.

Damascus Radio Commentary Views Mideast Events
JN1911155688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following a series of developments connected to the situation in this important region of the world, international and regional circles began to direct their attention toward the Middle East.

In Israel, the balance in the general elections tipped in favor of the Likud, led by the old terrorist, Yitzhaq Shamir, and the fanatical religious and extreme rightist parties.

In the United States, the presidential elections were held and the Republican candidate, George Bush, won. The preparations for transition between the current administration, led by President Reagan, and the new administration, led by Bush, began.

In Algiers, a statement was issued by certain Palestinian leaderships on the Palestinian state topic.

These developments were among events that many have awaited, depending on them for future political action and direction in the region, especially since observers were expecting these points with great curiosity because they have direct connections to past and future efforts to transfer the spirit of international detente, which exists in the world, to the Middle East.

There was a conviction in many quarters in the international arena, including diplomatic quarters, that the Israeli parliamentary elections will indicate the color of the traffic signal on the road along which the international conference wagon will travel.

In the international arena, great hopes are pinned on this wagon, which is imagined to be carrying to the region the gifts of the international community, such as peace, settlement, security, stability, and other hopes—mentioned when talking about what international detente and its effects hold in store for the region.

The Israeli elections brought a result that was different from that expected by supporters of the international conference. These elections have switched on the red light, or, according to Samuel Lewis, former U.S. ambassador to Israel, closed the road to the international conference.

Shamir is now trying to attract the Labor Party to his new government to join him in taking difficult positions and major resolutions. Naturally, these are the positions that Shamir is publicly proposing and that the Labor Party implicitly approves, trying to achieve them through equivocation.

Although a continuation of the previous administration is expected in a way, no one expects the new U.S. Administration to exercise its ability to influence Israel and pressure the Israeli Government to make it abandon its opposition to the peace process.

This opposition is represented in rejecting the international conference idea, insisting on rejecting withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, rejecting the Palestinian state, and denying the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination.

The new administration may not depart from the traditions of previous governments and may ask for a period of time to open the region's dossier. This dossier has been on the table of U.S. Administrations since 1949, and its pages, papers, and details are well known to all U.S. officials.

This means that serious work in the international arena to convene the international conference must wait until allowed by the new U.S. Administration and the new officials who will succeed Shultz, Murphy, Whitehead, and others.

The two superpowers may be serious in dealing with regional conflicts after they have walked the roads of detente, arms limitation, and disarmament in their relations. However, this seriousness must consider actual, objective reality.

The Israeli rulers are trying to impose on international efforts a de facto policy, which they have used in the past by relying on the support guaranteed them in Washington and the statement that any settlement must be based on equilibrium between the interests of the concerned sides.

It is a good thing for man to consider the major directions that exist in the world and try to deal with them with wisdom, a spirit of initiative, and an ability to move. However, jumping in the air is useless, giving concessions for nothing harms the negotiating position, and putting all the cards on the table before beginning any kind of talks is an adventure that will harm he who tries it.

The illusion that shifting from principled positions and stances to opportunism may convince the enemy and its supporters to change their positions is harmful and may lead those who harbor such an illusion to positions of capitulation.

Arabs who truly want a just peace, welcome international detente, and support any serious international effort to achieve peace must not forget who is the enemy and who is the friend or to what extent the enemy may advance or the friend retreat.

They must also know that the balance of power on the ground puts a heavy weight on both sides of the balance of interests. They must also know that adherence to pan-Arab goals, first the liberation of the occupied Arab territory and the restoration of usurped rights to the Palestinian Arab people, call on them to close ranks and direct their energies to the balance between powers.

They must also adhere to their principled stands and the strong will to achieve that balance. They must know that fatal conflicts are not resolved quickly and that they no longer have before them lost opportunities. The Arabs' fatal battle is not one connected to an opportunity that may appear on the horizon and then disappear.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Writes Husayn on 'Peace Meeting'

LD2211221288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] The message from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan was handed to King Husayn yesterday by 'Abdul Ghafur Baher, the Presidency's religious affairs chairman and Afghanistan's special representative.

Here is the text of the message:

Your Majesty, I am pleased to greet and salute you, dear friend. It can be asserted with full confidence that friendly and fraternal relations between our Muslim nations develop daily, manifested in the closeness of our viewpoints in the Nonaligned Movement and international forums for world peace and international security and our desire to solve international disputes through dialogue and political negotiation.

As you may know, some time ago an international Islamic gathering convened in Kabul to mark the auspicious birthday of Islam's great prophet. Once again our noble people's hopes for lasting peace and the cessation of fratricide was reflected at that Islamic gathering in the proposal to negotiate with the opposition and ensure peace in Afghanistan and the cessation of war.

This peace meeting could be convened in the great Mecca, where the world's Muslims' Kabah is situated—provided Saudi Arabia, as host country, agrees to this.

Holding this meeting in Mecca would enable its participants to attain the lofty and great aspiration of peace in light of Koranic precepts and the prophet of Islam's instructions.

Revering your previous assistance and your valuable role in concluding the Geneva talks, I cordially ask you, dear brother, to contact the Saudi Arabia leadership to obtain their consent to serve as host for such negotiations and also to encourage the opposition to participate in peace talks. This would not be beyond your infinite kindness. This humanitarian act would further strengthen the friendship between our Muslim countries.

Our people sympathize as deeply with the righteous cause of the Palestinian people as they do with own national issues. The Republic of Afghanistan has always supported and defended the righteous struggle of the Palestinian people and the Arab peoples whose territories are still occupied by Israel and who fight against the Zionist aggressors and occupiers.

We recognize the independent State of Palestine and consider the event to be a great success for the Palestinian people and congratulate all Arab brothers and Muslims in the world on this auspicious event.

I take this opportunity to express my best wishes for your health, dear friend, and to wish you further success.

With respect,

Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Kabul, 20 November 1988

Armed Forces Capture Weapons, Destroy Stingers

LD2211181388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Quoting an Armed Forces spokesman the BAKHTAR military section reported that Armed Forces units and companies have carried out military operations in a number of provinces in the past 24 hours to restore peace and security.

As a result of yesterday's activities carried out by the Armed Forces in the vicinity of the Towr Kham-Jalalabad highway, two rocket missile units, two recoilless guns, three rocket launchers, one mortar, one DShK, and one weapon and ammunition depot were destroyed and two machineguns were seized.

Moreover, as a result of Armed Forces operations carried out yesterday in the surroundings of Takhteh Pol subdistrict, Qandahar Province, 440 mortar mines, 18 missiles, 87 boxes of DShK ammunition, 18 boxes of mortar warheads, 72 rockets, and thousands of rounds of ammunition were seized. One DShK, two mortars, and one missile unit belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

Three surface-to-air Stinger missiles made in the United States were destroyed yesterday by the Armed Forces in the area of Herat Province.

According to another report, as a result of operations carried out by the security forces in Hasan Khel region, Balkh District, Balkh Province, 35 rockets and thousands of rounds of ammunition for light weapons were seized. One rocket launcher and one recoilless gun belonging to the extremists were destroyed.

The Armed Forces carried out operations yesterday in the surroundings of Helmand, Badakhshan, Paktia, Farah and Konduz Provinces as a result of which the warmonger extremists suffered heavy losses and three of their ringleaders, Dastagir, Abdul Wahid and Nur Ahmad, were crushed.

The BAKHTAR military section added that differences between the extremist groups have been further increased in various regions of the country which have resulted in bloody clashes.

For example as a result of clashes which recently took place between the belligerent parties in the surroundings of Andar and Qal'eh-ye Zal Districts, and [name indistinct] subdistricts, and in the Provinces of Lowgar, Ghazni, Konduz and Baghlan, a total of 152 men from the belligerent parties were killed and another 29 were injured.

Mujahidin Reportedly Capture District, Kill 20

BK2311113288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have captured (Shaharshahi) District in Nangarhar Province. Twenty Kabul regime's troops were killed and a number of vehicles were destroyed by mujahidin.

Mujahidin also recaptured (Mandhikhyber) and Dakka and a large quanitity of arms and ammunition were destroyed.

Mujahidin also shot down a Kabul fighter aircraft near Mard Kala area in Qandahar.

Note 127 Submitted on Pakistani 'Violations'

LD2311075088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 22 BAKHTAR—The one hundred twenty seventh note of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations by Pakistan of Geneva agreements was handed over to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the note it has been specified that the Government of Pakistan through arming the extremists with modern armaments and sending them into Afghanistan causes death to thousands of innocent civilians and fans up fratricide in Afghanistan.

It asks the UNGOMAP that on the basis of Article Seven, Document Number Four, of Geneva agreements investigate the said violations and notify its findings to the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

Ministers Cut Publications, Overseas Agencies

LD2311074688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 22, BAKHTAR—The session of the Council of Ministers chaired by Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, took decision on several domestic issues.

In order to curtail expenditures in publishing unnecessary journals and periodicals, the Council of Ministers approved either the merging of certain journals and magazines or abolishing the un-necessary ones.

It also abolished or curtailed the staffs of certain Afghan commercial agencies abroad due to their ineffectiveness.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers in its today session confirmed the programme of scientific educational programme between the Republic of Afghanistan and Czechoslovak Socialist Republic for the years 1989-90.

Facilities on the payment procedures of custom duties by merchants as well as admission of 12th grade students of the provinces to Kabul University with dormitory facilities in winter were also approved by the session.

India

'Terrorists' Kill 19, Injure 25 in Haryana

BK2311020588 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0155 GMT 23 Nov 88 GMT

[Text] Terrorists killed 19 people and injured about 25 others in Kaithal in Kurukshetra District of Haryana last night. Six terrorists riding in Jeeps started firing indiscriminately at three places killing five persons.

Later, 11 injured people died as a result of their wounds. Other injured people are reported to be in critical condition. They have been admitted to PGI Hospital in Chandigarh.

Police have intensified their efforts to arrest the culprits. AIR Chandigarh correspondent reports that State Home Minister Mr Sampat Singh and Police Inspector General S.S. Brar have left for the scene.

Paramilitary Forces Sent

BK2311161888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The center has rushed more paramilitary forces to Haryana to help the state government in tackling terrorist activities. Giving this information in New Delhi, an official spokesman said the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, today telephoned the chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, and requested him to take all possible steps to contain the terrorist activities.

Earlier, the state home minister, Mr Sampat Singh, said the state government has asked for 12 more companies of paramilitary forces from the center to strengthen the security set up in the state. He said 400 commandos now under training will join the state police soon.

A bundh [strike] was observed in the state today in protest against yesterday's terrorist killing of 22 people at Kaithal.

The state police chief told our correspondent that a massive manhunt has been launched to nab the culprits. Several terrorist hideouts in Haryana and Punjab have been raided.

The chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, who visited Kaithal, said life and property of all people will be protected. The situation in Kaithal is reported to be under control.

The union agriculture minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has expressed shock over the killings. Several leaders and political parties, including the president of Akali Dal (Feruman) group, Mahant Sevadas Singh, the general secretary of the Akali Dal Talwandi group, Mr Manjit Singh Kalkatta, and the CPI-M had condemned the killings.

In Punjab, security forces have been put on maximum alert in view of the Kaithal killings. The police chief, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told AIR's Chandigarh correspondent that special checkposts have also been set up in the area.

The police have arrested two terrorists and one harborer during raids in Ferozepore District last night. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

The Punjab government today revoked the detention orders of two senior unified Akali Dal leaders—Mr Sukhdev Singh Dhingsa and Mr Ranjit Singh Brahmpura. The two leaders were detained under the National Security Act.

Minister on 'Success' of Sri Lankan Elections

BK2211125988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, told Parliament today that the overwhelming success of the provincial council elections in northeastern Sri Lanka proves that the Tamils in that country want peace and support the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement.

Making a suo Marte statement in both the houses today, he said the results perhaps give us a clue why the LTTE has consistently refused to submit to a popular verdict and opted for violence.

Describing the elections as free and fair and peaceful, the minister said India supported the proposal because it knew the Tamil mind. Giving details, he said a large number of voters—63 percent—exercised their right of franchise in the Eastern Province. It is the highest percentage in the provincial council elections in Sri Lanka.

In the predominantly Tamil district of Batticaloa, the turnout was about 80 percent.

Appeals to LTTE

BK2211161088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has again appealed to the LTTE in Sri Lanka to give up violence and help restore peace and normalcy in the island. He was replying to members seeking clarification in the Rajya Sabha on his suo Marte statement in both the houses.

Mr Rao said the holding of the provincial council elections successfully in northeastern Sri Lanka gives rise to optimism about a solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. These developments reveal that the Tamils are in favor of Indo-Sri Lanka agreement and they would like to give it a try to end violence and strife. The minister said the agreement is a bilateral one and neither India nor Sri Lanka can take a unilateral decision.

With the elections over, a new government has to be formed, a chief minister appointed. An administrative set up as well as a police force has been envisaged. Steps have been taken in accordance with the agreement to restore a sense of security and safety in the province.

In a statement, Mr Narasimha Rao said there has been an overwhelming turn out of voters, particularly from the Tamils. The unanimous verdict of the international media is that the elections were peaceful, completely free and fair, and above all an overwhelming success.

The minister said the results perhaps give us a clue as to why the LTTE has consistently refused to submit to a popular verdict and preferred to seek their objectives by force of gun. The central point of LTTE's intransigence was their insistence that India recognize their right to set themselves up as the sole representatives of the Tamils. Repeated attempts were made to persuade the LTTE to join the democratic process but all in vain. The electoral process was completed without any violence and with an overwhelming voter turn out.

The external affairs minister congratulated the Tamil parties, especially the EPRLF and the ENDLF [Eelan National Democratic Liberation Front] for showing tremendous courage and foresight in standing up for peace and democracy.

He also commended the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] for the excellent security arrangements, which foiled all attempts by the LTTE to intimidate the candidates.

Strike Affects Industries in Delhi, Ghaziabad

BK2211130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Most industries in Delhi and Ghaziabad were affected following a 7-day strike call given by the Center for Indian Trade Unions. The trade union is demanding an increase in the minimum wages from 562 rupees to 1050 rupees a month.

AL-THAWRAH Interview With Rajiv Gandhi Cited

JN2211104088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus, 22 Nov (SANA)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that Indian-Syrian relations are very close and that both sides are committed to the same principles and hold joint views toward many of the world's major issues.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH's chief editor published today, Gandhi affirmed his country's support for Syria's proposal to convene an international conference to distinguish between terrorism and peoples' liberation struggle.

Gandhi touched on the Middle East situation. He stressed the need to convene an international peace conference under UN auspices in which the UN Security Council permanent member states and all the concerned parties participate, including the PLO.

He said no peace can be established without a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestine question, which is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Gandhi held Israel responsible for the obstruction of peace efforts and referred to its intransigence which has aborted all attempts to reach a solution to the problem.

Gandhi hailed the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied territories. He affirmed that this uprising has added a new dimension to this people's struggle and made the Palestinians' tragedy and need for an urgent settlement the crux of international interest.

Gandhi talked about India's development and construction battle to reach a better future. He said: We have opted for the path of economic planning in which the public sector plays a major role.

Gandhi answered questions about the racial conflict in Sri Lanka, the situation in Afghanistan, and means to expedite the prevailing of peace and stability in this country.

Concluding his interview, Gandhi talked about the debt problem of developing countries and called for drawing up a comprehensive strategy to ease the ensuing burdens of paying these debts.

Congress-I, CPSU To Exchange Delegations

BK1811160288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 88

[Text] The Indian National Congress and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union have agreed in principle for exchange of party delegations. The two parties working in close cooperation for world peace have also agreed to exchange party literature on a regular basis.

This was finalized between the two parties in New Delhi today, when a delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union called on top AICC-I functionaries.

The Soviet delegation was led by the first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, Mr Nishanov. The Congress-I was represented by party General Secretaries Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, Mr V.N. Gadgil, Mr Oscar Fernandez, and Mr K.N. Singh.

Congress-I Party Hails Gorbachev Statement

BK2111161188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] The Congress-I has hailed the joint statement issued yesterday at the end of Mr Gorbachev's visit. A resolution adopted at a meeting of PCC-I [Pradesh Congress Committee-I] presidents in New Delhi today said:

The statement will get the process started by the Delhi Declaration of 1986 to envisage the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free and nonviolent world. [sentencwe as heard]

It congratulated Mr Gorbachev for his friendly statements during his 3-day visit. PCC-I presidents from all the states and Union Territories, excepting Kerala, attended the meeting. Among others, party general secretaries were also present.

Cultural Centers Set Up in Moscow, Tashkent

BK2311090588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] India is to open two cultural centers in Moscow and Tashkent in the Soviet Union. The Indian ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr T.N. Kaul, told PTI that the center at Moscow will be opened in January and one at Tashkent at a later date.

Mr Kaul said the cultural centers will have facilities to teach Indian music, dance, and yoga. He said there is great enthusiasm among Soviet boys and girls for Indian dance and music, particularly after the successful conclusion of the yearlong Festival of India in the Soviet Union.

Government's Role in Kampuchea Issue Viewed

BK2311124488 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Commentary by Sunil Roy on Kampuchean talks in Delhi]

[Text] Behind the scenes activities to arrive at a political solution of the Kampuchean problem continue despite the initial setback at the first Jakarta informal meeting in July end.

That was the first occasion when all the four factions of Kampuchea, including the one led by its leader Mr Hun Sen, met to work out a framework for an eventual political solution.

The search for a solution is on. All the participants recognize the complexities of the Kampuchean issue and its many dimensions and their regional and international ramifications. With the second round of consultations in

which three factions participated in Paris early this month, not much headway could be made partly because of the absence of Khmer Rouge representative.

Khmer Rouge, the dominant partner among the three factions of anti-Kampuchean resistance group, was represented at the Jakarta meeting by Mr Khieu Samphan. This time he nominated another person, who was not accepted by the rest of the factions.

Mr Hun Sen, prime minister of Kampuchea who was present at the Paris meeting, flew into New Delhi in less than a week to hold discussions with the Indian Government on the Kampuchean issue. He briefed the Indian leaders on the progress of talks on power sharing among the four partners of the proposed transitional government in Phnom Penh after the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea.

Mr Hun Sen's talks with Indian leaders in the light of discussions in Paris and other developments assume significance. His visit to the Indian capital took place just a few days before the arrival of the Soviet president, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

It may be coincidental but surely opportunity was taken both by Indian and Soviet leaders to discuss the Kampuchean problem. With agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the presence of Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea remains the only contentious issue in Southeast Asia.

The Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China toward the end of next month would afford another opportunity to discuss the Kampuchean issue with the Chinese leaders, who are the principal backers of the Khmer Rouge and other two factions of the anti-Kampuchean resistance movement.

In between the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Qian Qichen, is slated to go to Moscow on a mission that may prepare the ground for a Sino-Soviet summit early next year. The fallout of these talks would have direct bearing on the Kampuchean issue and Indian role in the final Kampuchean solution following the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces appears almost certain. [sentence as heard]

Both Prince Sihanouk and the Kampuchean prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, have suggested that India should serve on the international control commission, which is expected to be set to supervise Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea. India is preeminently qualified to serve on such a commission because of its vast experience in a similar control commission created after the overthrow of the French colonial rule in the Indochinese states in 1954.

Apart from the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, the main issue on which agreement is lacking among the four factions is the role of Khmer Rouge, and its leader Pol Pot, who are responsible for a policy of genocide which claimed the lives of thousands of innocent Kampucheans until the beginning of 1979.

The People's Republic of China has remained a consistent supporter of Khmer Rouge despite the heinous crime against the Kampuchean people. It stands for the inclusion of Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot in the quadripartite coalition government to be set up in Phnom Penh as part of an overall agreement.

The other aspect of the settlement is that while Prince Sihanouk wanted the present government in Phnom Penh dissolved and a coalition government formed, Mr Hun Sen wanted to form a government only after an election. India has been one of the mediating countries in the Kampuchean issue, given its good relations with Vietnam.

The Indian role is considered crucial because India is the only country among the developing, nonsocialist, and the Third World nations to recognize the government of Heng Samrin more than 8 years ago.

While Vietnam has made a few phased withdrawals of its forces from Kampuchea in the past 18 months, neither Hanoi nor Phnom Penh was willing to accept a resolution sponsored by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—ASEAN—at the United Nations General Assembly early this month.

Despite the general abhorrence of ASEAN countries of the Vietnamese presence, there has been some perceptible change of some countries, notably Indonesia. Had it not been so, the first informal meeting in Jakarta could never have taken place in July.

It is now reasonably expected that some headway would be made after the round of talks takes place between China and the Soviet Union on the one side, and India and China on the other. But an easy solution need not be expected in a matter of months.

Iran

Mo'ayeri Receives Turkish Envoy Over Expulsions

LD2211171188 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Turkish Ambassador Omer Akbel called on the deputy prime minister today to announce his country's willingness to further its ties with Iran.

'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri responded by laying stress on promotion of bilateral ties in regional and international scenes.

According to today's issue of TEHRAN TIMES, Iran has asked two Turkish diplomats to leave within 72 hours. The move was a reprisal for Ankara's expelling of two Iranian Embassy staffers and detaining of an Iranian couple along with their baby, added the English daily without further elaborating.

Spokesman Says Government To 'Retaliate'

LD2311141988 Tehran IRNA in English 1351 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Iran said Wednesday it is determined to continue its policy to retaliate any move against its diplomatic representatives and that included Turkey's expulsion of Iranian diplomats.

Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri also complained about the "hostile" attitude of the Turkish press, calling on Ankara to put an end to the anti-Iran propaganda.

"We in Iran, despite pressures by certain domestic circles have always tried to further boost our relations with Turkey. We expect the same from Turkey," he said.

"Iran will never take any harsh political steps against Turkey but it will definitely follow a tit-for-tat policy," he added in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES.

It was reported Tuesday that Iran asked two Turkish diplomats to leave following the expulsion of two Iranian diplomats from Turkey last month.

Today Turkey expressed "displeasure" over the move which it said could "lead to discomfort" in the two countries relations. The reaction came in a message from Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi, the Foreign Ministry in Ankara said.

Turkey new ambassador to Tehran, Omer Akbel, met Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri Tuesday, apparently to discuss the issue.

Mansuri bitterly attacked the Turkish media's long-standing propaganda against the Islamic Republic, accusing them of being hostile and influenced by Zionism.

"We don't take the hostile propaganda of the Turkish media seriously," he said. "But we do not really understand why the Turkish Government does not try to stop such unreasonable moves by its print and broadcast media which is against all norms and (harms) friendly relations."

On the situation in Afghanistan, the deputy foreign minister said Soviet leader Gorbachev's recent threat that the withdrawal of Russian forces from Afghanistan could be delayed because of continued arms supplies to the Afghan resistance was "nothing but a threat thrown at the future Government of Pakistan."

He called on the next Pakistani Government to reject the Soviet threat which he said was aimed at softening Islamabad's stand towards the Afghan issue.

Mansuri said the seven-party alliance of Afghan resistance groups led by Burhanuddin Rabbani based in Pakistan and an eight-party alliance based in Iran will meet in Tehran to discuss a new plan on Afghanistan. He did not say what the plan was or when the groups would meet.

"They may possibly reach a comprehensive agreement for the future," he said.

FRG's Genscher May Discuss Lebanon Hostages

LD2311103688 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is scheduled to visit Iran next week at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart. He is due to arrive here Sunday night and will stay for three days, Tehran newspaper said today.

The English language daily TEHRAN TIMES, quoting informed sources said in a front page story that the German minister will meet with ranking officials, including the president, the Majlis speaker and the prime minister.

The visit will be the second by Genscher after the 1979 Islamic revolution. He also visited Iran in July 1984.

Meanwhile, TEHRAN TIMES in its today's editorial focused on Genscher's visit and predicted that his meeting with Rafsanjani (scheduled for next Tuesday) would "generate some sensational political talk as can be expected from a meeting between a high-ranking European official and an Iranian leader in the highest official echelon."

In the light of Iran's new foreign policy which it said is based on expansion of relations with European countries, the paper said the visit, among other things, would help boost "Iran's new foreign policy approaches."

TEHRAN TIMES also speculated that the Western hostages held in Lebanon would be among other issues Genscher would discuss with Iranian officials. Excerpts from the editorial:

"...It may be interesting to try to speculate on what possible subjects may come up for discussion and further as to the very motivations that have spurred this high-level visit next week. No doubt visits of this nature at diplomatic level always do take into account the expansion of political and eocnomic relations between the two countries with due consideration for their mutual interests forming the centerpiece of talks.

"But what might be of more significance and stand out as a good guess perhaps, is the possibility that Genscher's discussions may turn the searchlight on the solution to the hostage issue in Lebanon and the crisis this has generated. Is it possible then that the German minister is around here as a mediator?

"Everything points to this being the case, and this accords with recent moves to have Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative taken hostage in Lebanon, released. A number of requests have been made in recent months for the release of hostages in Lebanon and for Iran to use its ideological influence there on humanitarian considerations to that end.

"Whatever the immediate reason for the talks, or irrespective of whether there will be breakthroughs on the question of the hostages, Germany still can play a vital role in the economic reconstruction of Iran. Apart from the positive German stance in the course of the Iran-Iraq war, Germany's advanced technology and its economic growth can be factors which will stand out as an enormous help in reconstruction and transfer of technology during the nation's crucial post-war era."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on UN Peace Talks

LD2211214988 Tehran IRNA in English 2047 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Morteza Sarmadi [name as received] says certain permanent members of the UN Security Council have an axe to grind in the Iran-Iraq peace talks, and wish to see their private interests better protected in a protracted negotiations between the two countries.

He notes, however, that those governments which cherish such wishful hopes would do better to remember that Iran's sovereignty over her territorial waters is never negotiable.

Sarmadi says ever since Iran agreed to comply with the dictates of the UN Security Council Resolution 598 the resolutions has become an acid test of the good will of the Security members which insisted that Iran accept the UN document. He says the course of future action of those countries in relation with the resolution will credit or discredit them according as they do.

The following are excerpts from an interview with Sarmadi on the same topic as printed in the Tuesday November 22 issue of the Persian daily KEYHAN.

"Whether or not the next round of talks will be a success depends on certain conditions. To begin with Iraq must be 'politically' truly willing to execute the resolution. Mr [Perez] de Cuellar's last message as read by Mr Eliasson in the previous round of talks said any progress in the talks would depend on a new political decision.

"The second condition—which holds true with any political negotiation—is 'good will' and any negotiation without this element will be a negotiation without success.

The third consideration is whether or not Iraq will be willing to negotiate consistent with a well-defined framework. If the future talks should be held without a clearcut agenda then one cannot look foward to a successful talks.

"But if Iraq should happen to be politically resolved as well as well-disposed for talks and willing to negotiate within an established framework, and give us to understand that the talks are going to be made for the purpose of executing exclusively the Security Council Resolution 598 and nothing beyond that then here is hope to expect a breakthrough in the talks, or else it is likely that talks will be desultory and without a tangible result.

"I think firstly it should be realized that the resolution is a binding document. What distinguishes this resolution from others is that the UN Security Council as the ultimate international source does not 'recommend' it to the two parties but that the document is 'binding'. We insist—among our other observations—that the role of the UN Security Council and the secretary general should be more clearly-defined in relation with the execution of a UN resolution. In other words we maintain that the Security Council and Mr Secretary General shall not have done their tasks simply by undertaking to sum up the outlooks of the two sides or to narrow the gap between them for that matter.

"The Security Council has commissioned Mr Secretary General to see to it that the resolution is executed. The language of certain paragraphs of the resolution clearly signify its binding character. It refers to withdrawal of troops as a 'must'. That is why we maintain that in the event the next talks should get into the same rut of the previous talks, that is if Iraq should not be willing to adhere to a defined framework, or if it should not submit to the view of Mr Secretary General—who is also supported by the Security Council—then it will be necessary to re-define the role of Mr Secretary General and of the Security Council for making Iraq understand that the resolution has to be executed.

"I think if things should go on as before both Mr Secretary and the Security Council will feel the urgency for adoption of devices in order to execute the resolution and prevent unfruitful talks. For the time being both the United Nations and the Security Council have decided that talks should continue, and I do not think we have washed our hands of future talks, but rather we maintain that the United Nations and the Security Council must adopt devices whereby to commit the other side to the execution of the resolution.

"Basically in a negotiation where the rights of a nation is at stake with consequential results on the future of that nation the biggest drawback is to act hastily or to feel frustrated.

"One common tactics for frustrating the other side in political negotiations is to try to tire it by needlessly protracting talks. If Iraq fancies that by doing so it will extort concessions from the Islamic Republic, or that the Iranian delegation will cede as little as one morsel of the rights of the Iranian nation to Iraq it cannot do better than realize that it is thinking wrongly. We will proceed with the talks patiently, and the bone of contention being the rights of the Iranian people we are convinced that the Iranian people have the same attitude towards the matter.

"There are concessions with short-term consequences to a people, whereas such topics as territorial accords, territorial rivers, the rights of nations, and their sovereignty are not such as would allow a superficial treatment or light handling. Such issues would involve a realistic and conscientious treatment as much as they involve self-assertion and patience. That is why we are not losing hope and are not distrustful of the future. There is simply nothing to worry about now.

"From the outset and even before the declaration of the ceasefire in New York we asserted to the United Nations that the 1975 accord between Iran and Iraq was valid and the United [Nations] too, assured us that the accord continues to be valid. Also according to the international law territorial accords are unabrogable [word as recieved] unless otherwise agreed upon between the two sides. Therefore the 1975 accord between the two countries form the underlying foundation in our peace talks and you may rest assured that in the upcoming talks the Iranian delegation will not back down as little as one inch on Iran's sovereignty on the Iranian lands and over our territorial waters.

"It is likely that certain countries will be tempted to believe that they can better safeguard their own private interests in a peculiarly protracted talks. I think the least those countries should have learned from the eight [Years] of Iraq-Iran war is that there is absolutely no room for getting concessions from Iran by such devices.

"If the member countries of the UN Security Council are tempted to believe that they can deal lightly with the execution of the resolution they shall then have discredited themselves, why? Because the magnitude of the insistence of those nations on the execution of the Security Council 598 having been as wide as it was over the past year has now made the very resolution itself as an acid test of the true intention of those countries.

"The resolution has now become such a test for the Iraqi Government itself. For one full year Iraq shouted out that it had accepted the resolution and that it is ready for its execution, but as soon as Iran announced its acceptance of the document it became evident that part of Iraqi pretensions were utterly false claims...

"Naturally, however, all countries insist that the resolution should be executed and so far we have not seen any one country try to undermine the resolution or prevent its execution by political means."

UK Journalist Uncovers Iraqi 'Chemical Massacre'

LD2311170288 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpt] London, Nov. 23, IRNA—Traces of mustard gas have been found in soil samples from Iraqi Kurdistan by a commercial laboratory in the English Midlands city of Birmingham that point to another chemical massacre committed by the Iraqi Army.

Dr Richard Baron of Clayton, Edstock, Hill and Rigby concluded that the soil was consistent with mustard gas being used after a chromatographic investigation compared the samples with those provided by the U.K. Government's chemical weapons establishment.

The contaminated soil was obtained by British television journalist Gwynne Roberts, who has recently returned from a clandestine visit to Bassay Gorge [placename as received] in northern Iraq, close to the Turkish border.

He was taken there by Kurdish refugees, who had fled the area following a chemical attack by the Iraqi Army on August 28.

Survivors estimated that in all some 5,000 Kurds were trapped at Bassay Gorge at the time of the gas raid and that most of them had been killed after hiding in caves trying to escape to Turkey. [passage omitted]

Velayati Confers With Khomeyni 22 Nov

LD2211171688 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati this morning conferred with Imam Khomeyni, the imam of the ummah.

Velayati Meets With South Korean Official

LD2311100188 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The visiting South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Suk Kyu Kim discussed Tehran-Seoul ties in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday afternoon. The two also reviewed mutual cooperation and expressed hope for an overall expansion of bilateral relations.

During the meeting, Velayati briefed the Korean guest on the latest development in Iran-Iraq peace talks and Iran's stand towards Iraq's hampering of the talks.

Later, Suk met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Oceania Javad Mansouri and discussed expansion of existing ties.

Velayati Leaves Tehran for SFRY Talks

LD2311055788 Tehran IRNA in English 0550 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Tehran for Belgrade Wednesday morning on a one-day visit and talks with Yugoslav officials.

Speaking briefly to reporters before departure he said he will raise bilateral relations, the Non-Aligned Movement and international issues with the country's officials.

Yugoslavia is to host the ninth session of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Larijani Discusses Trade With Polish Official

LD2211151788 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran Nov. 22, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister of Poland Majewski and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and the Americas Mohammad Javad Larijani reviewed Iran-Poland relations and outlooks for its further development here Tuesday.

The visiting Polish official called for closer cooperation between the two countries in technological, industrial and trade areas, and intimated Poland's interest in getting engaged with post-war reconstruction projects in Iran.

Larijani in response expressed pleasure with the growing relations between the two countries and briefed him on Iran's preferences in post-war reconstruction projects.

The Polish official and Larijani also expressed hope that Iran-Poland trade exchanges in 1989 will reach 400 million dollars.

Majewski heading a Polish delegation arrived in Tehran Monday.

Velayati Talks With Majewski

LD2311104488 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA—The visiting Polish deputy foreign minister Jan Majewski declared his country's readiness for close cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran at international conventions.

Speaking in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Tuesday, Majewski expressed pleasure over the expanding trend of mutual ties in political, economic, cultural and scientific fields.

Majewski said his country supported full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 (seeking Iran-Iraq war's immediate end) and expressed hope the existing problems between the two countries would be peacefully solved.

He also informed Velayati of the recent developments in Poland and the reform programs in Polish economy.

Velayati referring to the peace talks under the auspices of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said since its acceptance of the resolution on July 18 Iran has been bound to its implementation and has cooperated with Perez de Cuellar in this regard.

The foreign minister regretted that Iraq was hampering the implementation of Resolution 598 by setting forth various pretexts in the peace talks, including its refusal to accept the 4-point plan of Perez de Cuellar.

Turning to mutual ties, Velayati said Iran was for expansion of Tehran-Warsaw ties.

Majewski arrived here Monday.

Musavi Receives Tanzania's Nyerere 22 Nov

LD2211164988 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22 IRNA—Former Tanzanian President and head of the South-South Commission of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Julius Nyerere today briefed Prime Minister Husayn Musavi on efforts of the commission to strengthen solidarity between Third World states.

Premier Musavi said the commission should make further efforts to solve problems facing the Third World countries.

The Islamic Republic has successfully pursued its neither East nor West policy, despite countless problems imposed on it by its enemies, in the sensitive Middle East region, he said.

He added that Iran has substantially expanded its political and economic ties with the Third World since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

The premier regretted that the Third World countries only lack knowledge on one another's potentials and also rely on Western sources for such data.

"The developing countries of the South must learn to solve their own internal problems without relying on the developed countries of the North," Musavi stressed.

Premier Musavi, saying one of the major problems of the Third World states is their huge debts to Western banks, said "an indebted country is unable to think independently."

Nyerere arrived in Tehran Monday.

Pakistan

Nawaz Sharif on Talks with Acting President

BK2311013088 Hong Kong AFP in English 2150 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 22 (AFP)—Nawaz Sharif, leader of the conservative Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), Tuesday challenged Benazir Bhutto of the liberal Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to demonstrate her strength on the house floor.

Ms Bhutto's demand to be appointed prime minister "is unfair as it is aimed at introducing a contrived majority," Mr Sharif said, expressing confidence that he was winning the support of neutral MP's to form the next government.

"We will demonstrate our strength soon," he said, adding that elections of the national assembly's speaker and women members early next month would be a key indicator.

"If the PPP establishes its claim of commanding a majority in the house, we are ready to sit in the opposition," he said, categorically rejecting the possibility of sharing power with Ms Bhutto, citing "major differences."

Addressing a midnight news conference here after meeting for more than two hours with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Presidential Palace, he described the talks as "cordial and useful." The IJI leader's private talks with the president followed talks between Mr Khan and Ms Bhutto.

The talks aimed at resolving a stalemate arising from the two main parties' failure to win an absolute majority in Wednesday's elections.

Mr Sharif, asked whether Ms Bhutto, who said she had secured a comfortable majority in the assembly, had presented a list of her MP's to the president, said, "I was not interested, but probably she did not."

Ms Bhutto, after her talks with the president, joined the army chief of staff, general Mirza Aslam Beg, for dinner at Army House in Rawalpindi, informed sources here said. Mr Sharif did not comment on the reported meeting with General Beg, except to say that "it is a political problem and army does not come in" to the equation.

He also refused to spell out his alliance's stand on a woman becoming head of government, adding that the IJI could address the issue at a planned meeting Wednesday. He said, "I have requested the president to remain neutral and not to become party to Ms Bhutto's attempts to create a contrived majority.

"The president listened to my views carefully and would act in the best interest of the country," he said.

Mr Sharif, who is also chief minister of the Punjab, noted that the IJI had secured an absolute majority in the Punjab provincial polls on Saturday. Some 14 independent deputies joined the alliance Tuesday and many more were in the pipeline, he said, adding that "we need no coalition to form government in Punjab."

The IJI also led in Baluchistan and the North West Frontier Provinces, where he said it was confident of forming the provincial governments. He admitted that the PPP had secured an absolute majority in Sind Province and had every right to form its provincial government there.

The IJI strength was swelling at the centre following wins in the three provinces, he said, adding that negotiations with the main independent group, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, were continuing while talks with the religious Jamiat Ulema Islami Party had reached a decisive stage.

He said the president, who is continuing the talks, was expected to decide the matter democratically in a few days. "We are hopeful that he would act impartially," he said.

Bhutto, Sharif Meet President; Comments Cited

BK2311024488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] President Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan met separately with the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and the leader of the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad [Democratic Alliance], Mr Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad last night.

During the meetings, held at the invitation of the president, the political situation in the country following the elections and matters relating to forming a new government were discussed. These were the first in a series of meetings to which the president has invited political leaders.

Waiting newsmen could not talk to the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party after her meeting with the president. Earlier, before leaving Karachi for Islamabad, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that her party is struggling for the supremacy of the Constitution. The Constitution should not be violated and the supremacy of the law should be maintained.

Asked whether she is carrying with her a list of members who had assured her of support, she said as leader of the majority party she does not need to produce such a list.

Addressing a news conference after meeting with the president, Mr Nawaz Sharif said the transfer of power should be made after a party has proved its majority in

the National Assembly. Until then the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad and the Pakistan People's Party should be recognized as legitimate claimants to the post of prime ministership to form a coalition government.

Mr Nawaz Sharif said in a situation where the transfer of power is made before truly establishing a majority in the house, the nominated prime minister could introduce a contrived majority. But it will not be right.

Bhutto Dines With Army Chief Aslam Beg
BK2311101188 Hong Kong AFP in English 0929 GMT 23 Nov 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 23 (AFP)—Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Benazir Bhutto complained Wednesday that the president had not yet invited anyone to form a new government a week after a general election.

Ms. Bhutto told a press conference here that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan did not intend to name a new prime minister until after the National Assembly elects a speaker on December 7.

Such a delay was unconstitutional and was giving "certain elements" time to manoeuvre, she added without identifying the "elements."

Diplomats and analysts here say that the president is most likely to invite Ms. Bhutto, 35, to form a government rather than her chief rival, Nawaz Sharif, leader of the conservative Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI).

Ms. Bhutto had talks Tuesday with Mr. Ishaq Khan, followed by dinner with General Mirza Aslam Beg, head of a military that 11 years before ousted her father Ali Bhutto from the premiership and later hanged him.

The unscheduled dinner appeared to be a recognition of the PPP's victory in the November 16 general election. But the dinner also underlined that the Armed Forces has not given up on the idea of playing a major role in Pakistani politics, analysts here noted.

Gen. Beg, considered a moderate who has to take into account the military's nine main generals, has said that troops would return to the barracks after the elections, but that they would also remain the sole guarantors of Pakistan's "security and integrity."

The dinner was the first time that Ms. Bhutto had met with the head of the army. The general has, however, met several times with Ms. Bhutto's main rival in the scramble to form a government, Mr. Sharif, and the two had talks Tuesday before Gen. Beg's dinner with Ms. Bhutto. [passage omitted]

President Meets Jamiyat-i-Ulema-i-Islam Head
BK2311090988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] The chief of Jamiyat-i-Ulema-i-Islam—Fazlur Rahman group—(Maulana Fazlur Rahman) had a meeting with the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at Aiwan-i-Sadr [Presidency] in Islamabad this morning.

The political situation in the country following the election and matters relating to formation of the new government were discussed at the meeting held at president's invitation. It is in a series of meetings called by the president with the political leaders.

Reserved Assembly Seats for Women Eliminated
BK2211165488 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Excerpt] In an intriguing development, the acting president of Pakistan, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has issued an ordinance that scraps the reservation of seats for women in the National Assembly in the next general election. The ordinance comes at a time when preparations are on for the elections to fill the 20 reserved seats for women on the 5th of next month.

It is, however, not clear whether the ordinance applies to the 23 reserved seats for women in the four provincial assemblies.

The recent elections have given the Pakistan People's Party, led by Mrs Benazir Bhutto, enough strength in the National Assembly to have its own candidate elected to the reserved seats with the support of a few members.

Mrs Bhutto has warned of a very dangerous situation in the country if political power is not transferred to the people. In an interview to the BBC she said although the country's constitution provides for a 2-month period to prove her party's majority in the house, she does not require that much time.

Mrs Bhutto and the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] leader, Mr Nawaz Sharif, are likely to meet the acting president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, later tonight for talks on the formation of a new government.

In another development, the leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement has said that the party's doors are still open for dialogue with the IDA. Talking to newsmen in Karachi, he, however, said that no progress has been made in negotiations with the IDA leader, Mr Nawaz Sharif. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Delhi Cites EPRLF Leader on Poll Outcome

BK2111034888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] leader, Mr Vradharajah Perumal, has said the massive turnout of voters in Saturday's elections for the North Eastern Provincial Council was a clear verdict in favor of peace and democracy.

In an interview to AIR correspondent Sebastian Roberts in Batticaloa, he said the vote is clearly against the meaningless violence carried out by the LTTE.

Mr Vradharajah reiterated his party's offer to share power not only with LTTE but also with all other parties who did not participate in the poll, provided they support the democratic process. He expressed the hope that Sri Lanka Government will understand the feeling of the Tamil people as expressed at the poll, and meet their aspirations.

The EPRLF and ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] alliance has won the two-third majority in the 71-member Northeastern Provincial Council, winning 53 seats. They will also get two bonus seats, raising their tally to 55.

The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress has won 17 and the United National Party 1.

Meanwhile, 17 LTTE men were killed in the Peacekeeping Force operations in Jaffna and Vavuniya sectors yesterday. Six Peacekeeping Force personnel were also killed in the incident.

Reportage on Continuing Violence, Casualties

13 Killed in North, East

BK1911100988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0917 GMT 19 Nov 88

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 19 (LANKAPUVATH)—Thirteen persons including three civilians, one of them a woman, were killed in northern and eastern Sri Lanka in the last 2 days, according to security reports received today. The report also states that 15 terrorists had been apprehended, by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force].

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that in the Jaffna sector, yesterday one terrorist named Kiripa Raja was killed in a raid conducted by the IPKF. In the cross fire one woman was killed and a girl injured.

The sources said that seven other terrorists were also killed in separate incidents and Rajmohan, an LTTE terrorist, the body guard of "Gamini", apprehended.

Nixon of EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] was shot dead by the LTTE terrorists in the Jaffna sector.

In Mullaitivu yesterday, terrorists had fired small arms at the IPKF post in the town. The troops retaliated with small arms and mortar fire. In the cross fire two civilians were killed and three others injured, yesterday.

One terrorist, moving in a suspicious manner was shot dead by Indian troops at Vavuniya, yesterday.

The IPKF recovered 1 hand grenade, 1 IED [improvised explosive device] with 25 kilograms of explosives and 1 IED with 10 kilograms of explosives in the Jaffna sector and in the Trincomalee sector the troops apprehended an LTTE terrorist and recovered 1, 12 bore shot gun and 1 IED containing explosives in a plastic jerrycan.

In the same sector a hardcore LTTE terrorist Bhaskar, alias Murti, was apprehended and 1 motorcycle was seized. The troops also recovered 1 plastic jerrycan with 30 kilograms of TNT explosives and 5 electric detonators.

9 Civilians Killed by LTTE

BK2011131988 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1226 GMT 20 Nov 88

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 20 (LANKAPUVATH)—Nine civilians including an eleven-year-old child were shot dead by LTTE terrorists according to security reports received today.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that D.M. Dissanayaka, an 11-year-old child, was shot dead in his father's [word indistinct] by LTTE terrorists at 1800 hours (local time).

The sources also said that one IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] sentry at the bridge guard in Thondamanaru was killed by terrorists yesterday, at 0245 hours (local time). In an IPKF cordon and search operation that followed, 4 suspects were captured.

One IPKF soldier was killed in a terrorist attack on an IPKF detachment at the coastal section in Trincomalee. The IPKF retaliated causing the terrorists to withdraw. Two civilians were killed in a crossfire between terrorists and the IPKF at Mullaitivu, and, at Mankulam town 3 civilians were gunned down by LTTE terrorists.

A gang of 20 unidentified armed youth had abducted Nagendran (24), Kunanayagam (18) and Sri Rajan (28) from their residence in Mankulam and shot them dead.

At Nallur, Sashikaran, a terrorist of the TELO gang, was killed by LTTE terrorists. An IPKF patrol engaged the LTTE terrorists killing one. Indian troops recovered one 9 mm pistol, 2 hand grenades, one AK-47 magazine and 1 cyanide capsule.

The driver of a vehicle carrying IPKF soldiers was killed and the cleaner injured when LTTE terrorists shot at the vehicle at Akkaraipattu, yesterday. Meanwhile, a report from the Ampara-Batticaloa sector states that two curfew breakers were shot dead by Indian troops at Pottuvil.

LTTE, IPKF Clash; 24 Killed

BK2111120488 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1132 GMT 21 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Seventeen terrorists and seven IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers were killed in operations in northern and eastern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that at Chavakachcheri in the Jaffna sector two IPKF personnel were killed and two others wounded in a rocket attack by the LTTE, yesterday.

The sources said that two IPKF personnel were killed in an improvised explosives device (IED) blast in Neelaveli and one IPKF soldier was also killed in an exchange of fire with terrorists in Tiriyai in the Trincomalee sector yesterday.

A report from the Wanni sector states that five terrorists were killed in a clash between the LTTE and ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] in the south of Kilinochchi. In Puthukudiyirippu, one terrorist was wounded and a shot gun was recovered from him.

West of Taniyathu, one IPKF soldier was killed. At Velankulam, three terrorists were killed and four others wounded. At Adampan in Mannar, two LTTE terrorists and one Indian soldier were killed during an exchange of fire between the LTTE terrorists and Indian troops.

Yogasinnasamy and Selvaratnam were arrested on suspicion at the central camp. One of them was in possesion of a hand grenade.

Two terrorists, including the area leader of Vaddukoddai, Sakarai, and his accomplice Gopi were killed by IPKF at Karainagar. One carbine machine gun along with two magazines, four hand grenades and some ammunition were recovered by IPKF in the same incident.

Five terrorists were killed north of Kilinochchi, Polikandy and Kokkuvil by Indian troops. At Ampara, a group of terrorists had fired at the police station with automatic weapons Friday [18 November]. Police returned the fire and repulsed the attack. No casualties to the police.

AFP Reports 41 Dead

BK2111140988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1349 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Nov 21 (AFP)—At least 41 people, including two Sri Lankan policemen and six Indian soldiers, were killed in weekend violence involving Tamil and Sinhalese guerrillas, officials here said.

Gunmen from the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) ambushed a police jeep late Sunday in southern Mitiyagoda village killing two men, police said. They said the attack came hours after suspected JVP gunmen killed four supporters of the ruling United National Party (UNP) in Bandarawela, Laggamuwa, Athurugiriya and Moneragala towns in the island's south.

Nine UNP supporters were killed in Southern Province, a hot bed of JVP activity, on Saturday, police said.

Indian troops deployed in northern Sri Lanka killed two suspected fighters of the most powerful separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in Adampan village Sunday, the Indian High Commission (Embassy) here said.

A high commission spokeswoman said another LTTE suspect died in a clash with Indian troops in nearby Kankaveli village, in northern Jaffna Peninsula.

In separate incidents Saturday, Indian troops killed 17 LTTE men and lost six soldiers in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces, the spokeswoman added. [passage omitted]

'Terrorists' Captured by IPKF

BK2211133588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1238 GMT 22 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Four terrorists and one IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldier were killed and four Indian soldiers were injured in separate incidents in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern sectors, according to security reports received today.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that a road clearing party was fired at by terrorists killing one IPKF soldier in the Jaffna Peninsula yesterday. The sources said the body of a hardcore terrorist, Mahendran alias Mali, was found near the Elephant Pass Camp yesterday.

Three IPKF soldiers were injured in a landmine explosion near a culvert on the Akkaraipattu-Kalmunai road in the Batticaloa sector Sunday. A report from Trincomalee states that a hardcore terrorist Kandaswamy was shot dead at Kankuveli.

Two other terrorists were apprehended by the IPKF in China Bay yesterday. Indian troops killed two hardcore terrorists at Adampan and two others were captured in Pesalai and Cheddikulam in the Jaffna sector Sunday. One AK-47 rifle with a magazine and some rounds of ammunition were also seized by IPKF in Cheddikulam.

At Varnerikulam in Jaffna five rockets were recovered from a hut by the Indian troops Sunday. Puvidasan, a hardcore terrorist, was captured at a point near the south west of Jaffna Fort and two other terrorists, Dharmalinga Dharmalilngam and Chinnaraja were apprehended from the Kayts Island.

The IPKF also seized one AK-47 rifle, one pistol and some ammunition in the same area yesterday. At Urumpirai and Polykandy three claymore mines, some AK-47 magazines, some explosives and ammunition were recovered by the IPKF.

Indian troops apprehended three terrorists in Maruthanamadan and one IPKF personnel was wounded at Elephant Pass yesterday. During an operation conducted by Indian troops at Balasingham Hall, the boys hostel of the University of Jaffna, the troops recovered fourteen radio walkie talkie sets, twelve time devices with digital watches, six hand grenades, two rifle telescopes, one mortar, five hundred and fifty five rounds of small arms ammunition and fourteen electronic detonators Sunday.

In the Jaffna Peninsula, the IPKF seized two AK-47 rifle magazines with forty rounds of ammunition at Kaithadi. One 81 mm bomb found at Urumpirai was destroyed.

[Colombo LANKAPUVATH in an "OANA/pool" item in English at 1243 GMT on 22 November reports: "Two policemen were killed and three injured when a police mobile patrol was attacked by southern terrorists in the early hours of this morning at Hiniduma, in Sri Lanka's Southern Province district of Galle, police told LANKAPUVATH."]

JVP Military Leader Killed

BK2211135888 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1328 GMT 22 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Police investigations into the slayings of three persons at a shop in Ratmalana last Thursday [17 November] have revealed that one of those killed by a breakaway group of subversives was Algirige Munasinghe, the military wing leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] for the Colombo District.

Police told LANKAPUVATH that his body had been identified only yesterday.

The other two killed in the incident were a 21-year-old youth, a customer, who had gone to make some purchases. [sentence as received] Police said the youth had no association with the subversives and was a genuine customer, according to their investigations.

Police said they also found a large stock of literature alleged to be of the military wing at the trade centre, which was raided by the rival gang of subversives. Among the seized literature were several hundred roneoed [mimeographed] notices disclaiming JVP responsibility for several crimes.

Investigations had also revealed that Algirige Munasinghe was earlier the Ampara leader of the JVP's military wing and had been brought down to spearhead subversive violence in the Colombo District.

Police said that Algirige Munasinghe, military wing leader of the JVP, was also involved in the abortive JVP insurgency of 1971.

Meanwhile, police said that a group of angry elderly women, who had been forced recently by subversives to march in the vanguard of an illegal demonstration at Tissamaharama serving as human shields for southern terrorists, had surrounded a young subversive pretending to be a Buddhist monk, who was one of those who had forced them on the pain of death to march in the procession, and berated him (?for) his cowardly act, which had endangered their lives.

'Subversives' Blow Up Empty Train Near Colombo

BK2211134288 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1239 GMT 22 Nov 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Subversives blew up an empty passenger train at Orugodawatte in Colombo North, close to the Kelaniya bridge at the entrance to the city early this morning, railway officials told LANKAPUVATH.

The sources said the railway engine and several coaches were damaged. The rail track was also damaged in the explosion, which occurred at 0530 hours [0030 GMT] this morning.

The train was on its way to Mirigama, 30 miles northeast of Colombo on the main line, to commute workers to the city and suburbs.

Railway officials said workers began repairing the damaged rail track soon after the blast. North bound train services from Colombo were disrupted, all city-bound trains on the main line are being terminated at Ragama, 10 miles from Colombo, until repairs to the damaged track at Orugodawatte are completed, the railway officials said.